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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

UKRAINE UNREST

US forces arrive in Poland

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LUKAS SZELMEI/AP

Army general reprimanded for mishandling sex assault case

By CRAIG WHITLOCK
The Washington Post

The sexual misconduct complaints piled up on the desk of Maj. Gen. Michael Harrison Sr., the commander of U.S. Army forces in Japan. A colonel on his staff had been accused of having an affair with a subordinate, of drunken and inappropriate behavior with other women at a military club and, lastly, of sexual assault.

But Harrison let most of the complaints slide or reacted with leni-

‘It doesn’t make any difference if you’re at the top of the military structure, a four-star general, or if you’re a private first class. You’re accountable.’

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel

ency, according to the Army. He had known the colonel for two decades and said he didn’t believe some of the allegations. In March 2013, when a Japanese woman accused the colonel

of sexually assaulting her, Harrison waited months to report it to criminal investigators — a clear violation of Army rules, according to an internal investigation.

As chronicled by that investigation, a copy of which was obtained by The Washington Post, the general’s handling of the case provides a textbook example of the Pentagon’s persistent struggle to get commanders to take reports of sexual misconduct seriously.

Stung by troop surveys that show most sex-crime victims don’t trust the military to protect them, the Defense Department has repeatedly pledged to fix the problem and punish commanders who don’t get the message.

SEE GENERAL ON PAGE 6



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The U.S. military has become a family business for many Americans."

—Bernard Rostker, lead author of a RAND Corp. study that found that many military recruits have relatives and friends who are veterans

See story on Page 10

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2. Investigation clears Fort Carson leader suspended over alleged insensitivity, discrimination
3. Tens of thousands to evacuate Italian city as WWII 'Blockbuster' bomb defused
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Health

Helping skin recover from winter



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MILITARY

Hagel reviews prosthetics technology

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel on Tuesday met the bionic man, and it turned out to be someone he's known for decades.

At a Pentagon demonstration of new technologies being developed by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the wounded warrior who showed off an advanced prosthesis was Fred Downs Jr., who worked for Hagel at the Veterans Administration during Ronald Reagan's presidency. Downs lost an arm in a landmine explosion while fighting in Vietnam.

Hagel hugged him and shook his mechanical hand, with Downs joking, "I don't want to hurt you."

"He and I worked together many years ago," said Hagel, who received Purple Hearts during his service in Vietnam. "How you doing, Fred? How's your family?"

Downs showed Hagel how he controls movements of the DARPA arm, which appeared to be partly covered in translucent white plastic, with two accelerometers strapped to his feet. Through a combination of foot movements, he's able to control the elbow, wrist and fingers of the battery-powered appendage in a variety of movements, including the thumbs-up sign he gave Hagel.

It took only a few hours to learn to control the arm, he said.

"It's the first time in 45 years, since Vietnam, I'm able to use my left hand, which was a very emotional time," he said.

Dr. Justin Sanchez, a medical doctor and program manager at DARPA who works with prosthetics and brain-related technology, told Hagel that DARPA's arm is designed to mimic the shape, size and weight of a human arm. It's modular too, so it can replace a lost hand, lower arm or a complete arm.

Hagel said such technology would have a major impact on the lives of injured troops. "This is transformational," he said. "We've never seen anything like this before."

DARPA and its research partners are working on ways to control prostheses, ranging from sensors like Downs uses, to prostheses that can read minute muscle movements in residual limbs.



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, left, examines a prototype prosthetic arm and hand developed by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency fitted to Fred Downs, right, and explained by Dr. Justin Sanchez, center, a program manager with DARPA, on Tuesday at the Pentagon.

Even today into the realm that a few years ago would have been considered science-fiction was a video that Sanchez showed Hagel of a patient whose brain had recently been implanted with a sensor at the University of Pittsburgh.

'People said it would be 50 years before we saw this technology in humans. We did it in a few years.'

Dr. Justin Sanchez
Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

produced hand and arm that responds to brain impulses. The next step is to put sensors in the fingers that can send sensations back to the brain.

"If you don't have line of sight on something you're trying to grab onto, you can use that sensory information to assist with that task," Johannes said.

The tactile feedback system should be operational within a few months, he said. "People said it would be 50 years before we saw this technology in humans," Sanchez said. "We did it in a few years."

Hagel was next given an overview of the DARPA Robotic Challenge, a competition to develop a rescue and disaster response robot that was inspired by the Fukushima nuclear incident.

Virginia Tech's entrant in the contest, the hulking 6-foot-2-inch Atlas robot developed by Boston Dynamics, loomed menacingly in the background as Hagel was shown a video of robots walking over uneven ground and carrying things. Except for LED lighting, however, the 330-pound humanoid appeared to be switched off.

Brad Tousey, head of DARPA's Tactical Technology Office, explained to Hagel that Hollywood creates unrealistic expectations of robotic capability. In fact, building humanlike robots capa-

ble of autonomously doing things such as climbing ladders, opening doors and carrying things requires major feats of engineering and computer science.

Journalists were escorted out before the remaining three technologies could be demonstrated because of classified concerns. According to a Defense official speaking on background, Hagel brought up to date on progress of three other DARPA programs:

■ **Plan X**, "a foundational cyberwarfare program to develop platforms for the Department of Defense to plan for, conduct and assess cyberwarfare in a manner similar to kinetic warfare."

■ **Persistent Close Air Support**, a system to, among other things, link up Joint Tactical Air Controllers with close air support aircraft using commercially available tablets.

■ **Long Range Anti-Ship Missile**, to "reduce dependence on intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance platforms, network links, and GPS navigation in electronic warfare environments."

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MILITARY

Say what?

A sample of reader comments from stripes.com



War veterans are being forced out

Young men and women with multiple deployments under their belts are being told they have to leave the military as the wars wind down and Pentagon budgets shrink.

Readers respond:

Weakness attracts an attack.

— parkersd61

If they truly cared about keeping the good soldiers then they would think more long term and fix the army personnel structure.

— participatewill

They should keep the ones who did well in combat first and foremost ...

— Conservative AND Republican

If it is any consolation, let me assure those leaving active duty there is life after the military, and that life is good.

— Unexpected_View

Another 10 years of garrison duty would be like prison time. ... Get out now and reclaim your lives.

— Forcefrei

"In other news, the rate of suicide among members and former members of the military continues to rise. Leaders ask why..."

— Jeff Graybill

If cuts must be made, start at the O-6 level officers and above, can the LCS and F-35 programs, just to name 2 of the biggest DOD's bottomless blackhole money vacuums.

— Jim

So the Army basically loses a load of experience without a decent way to replace it when needed.

— CLB11267

Reduce the force by looking at LTCs and above, not below.

— Mitchell Ryan

As usual, the Army has taken these officers, used them, abused them, used them up, and is now kicking them to the curb. Hmmm.

— otisneedleman

Second servicemember charged in sailor's death

Stars and Stripes

A second American servicemember has been charged in connection with the strangling death of a U.S. sailor in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Army Spc. Cody A. Kramer was charged on April 14 with facilitating the strangling of Petty Officer

2nd Class Dmitry Chepusov, a Navy broadcaster who was found dead in the passenger seat of a car during a traffic stop Dec. 14. Kramer was also charged with making a false statement about the slaying.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Sean Oliver was charged March 10 with assaulting and murdering Che-

pusov and other offenses. Both Oliver and Kramer are broadcast engineers assigned to the American Forces Network at Ramstein Air Base, where Chepusov also worked.

An Article 32 hearing will be held in May to determine whether there is enough evidence against Oliver to warrant a court-martial.

A similar hearing for Kramer begins Thursday in Kaiserslautern.

Oliver was stopped by German police in the early hours of Dec. 14 for driving erratically. During the stop, police found Chepusov unresponsive in the passenger seat of Oliver's car. German medical personnel pronounced the sailor dead at the scene.

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EUROPE

Belgium-based soldier saves boy at park on Easter

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

First Sgt. Jared D. Dowland was planning a relaxing Easter Sunday at the Jemappes park, a lush pastoral spot just outside Mons, Belgium, with flowers, a lagoon and a lovely chateau.

A soldier with the 128th Signal Company at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, Dowland was kicking back as his three sons ran off to the playground when he noted a commotion about 50 yards away. At first he ignored it, he said in a telephone interview, but then it became clear something was wrong. A young child, dripping wet, was surrounded by a crowd of people near the water's edge as someone pressed on the boy's stomach.

"You have to do something," said Dowland's wife, Marie. "Get over there and save him."

Dowland said he found the boy unconscious and not breathing, his skin pale.

"Everything about this boy's appearance told me he was dead, he was in the water too long before he was discovered, and that reviving him was probably not possible," Dowland said.

As those thoughts raced through his head, Dowland said he fell back on his training, employing life-saving techniques learned years ago as a new recruit. He started chest compressions, followed by a breath of air.

"I pinched his nose and the first breath was hard to force in," Dowland said. "Then I instructed the father to push, so that he



Courtesy of Jared Dowland

First Sgt. Jared D. Dowland, a soldier based at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe in Mons, Belgium, visits Mahmud, a 5-year-old boy he saved by providing CPR after Mahmud had apparently fallen into a park lagoon and lost consciousness.

could do the compressions."

With the second breath, the boy's chest rose a little. He heard a gurgle, a possible

sign that the air went to the stomach. He again recalled his training: Tilt the head back farther to open the airway.

"Everything about this boy's appearance told me he was dead."

1st Sgt. Jared D. Dowland

Still worried that air was entering the stomach, Dowland started losing hope. He felt himself welling up with tears. But he pressed on.

After what felt like many minutes, water began shooting from the boy's nose. After turning the boy's head to the side, and wiping his mouth clean of mucus, Dowland gave another breath. Water spit out once more. After a couple more rotations, color started to return to the boy's face.

"He's going to be all right," Dowland shouted.

After the rescue, Dowland shared his account with Belgian authorities, who thanked him for stepping in. Apparently, two other attempts by bystanders to resuscitate the boy had failed before Dowland arrived. As Dowland tried to save the boy, people were calling out in French to stop, that it was hopeless, Belgian authorities told Dowland.

"I'm glad I couldn't understand them," he said.

Leaders from Dowland's unit credited the soldier for stepping in, saying his actions should serve as an example for all soldiers. Dowland said the rescue was a reminder that soldiers are trained to help both on and off the battlefield.

Dowland visited the boy later in the night at the hospital and again the next day.

He learned the youngster's name was Mahmud.

"The father kissed me on both cheeks," Dowland said. "It was very emotional."

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THE NEW SANNO

EUROPE

Fallen troops' kin honored

By ERIC A. BROWN
Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — More than a dozen family members of fallen troops were honored Tuesday with the dedication of a tree and a memorial garden during a ceremony on Clay Kaserne.

Each family member also received the Gold Star, which has been recognized as a symbol of loss since 1918. The custom grew out of the experience of World War I, when many families would display blue stars in the windows of their homes to indicate that their loved ones were serving in the war effort.

Bianca Long, widow of Staff Sgt. Lee Arick Long III, and her son, Lee, 6, traveled several hours to participate in the ceremony. She said it was a wonderful experience for her and her son.

"I've been separated from all things military for a long time, and it's really awesome to be in touch," she said. "It's really great to see how his dad's life was like.

... He barely remembers anything about him."

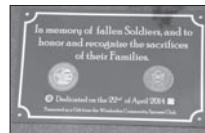
Her husband, who suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder, committed suicide on Sept. 22, 2012. He served multiple times in Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan.

The small memorial park, next to the Wiesbaden Fitness Center, is surrounded by four benches that face a linden tree. A plaque reads: "In memory of fallen Soldiers, and to honor and recognize the sacrifices of their Families."

Col. David Carstens, U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden commander, said the linden tree is a symbol of community and fosters a sense of friendship and protection.

All Installation Management Command garrisons conduct recognition events on or around the scheduled date of each national Gold Star and Survivor Recognition Day, which was April 5 this year.

brown.eric@stripes.com



Courtesy of the U.S. Army



Clockwise from left: Bianca Long and her son, Lee Arick, surviving family members of Staff Sgt. Lee Arick Long III, attend the Gold Star and Survivor Recognition Day ceremony on Clay Kaserne in Wiesbaden, Germany, on Tuesday. The plaque outside the Wiesbaden Fitness Center recognizes fallen servicemembers and their families. Gold Star pins are ready for presentation at the ceremony.

PHOTOS LEFT AND ABOVE BY ERIC A. BROWN/Stars and Stripes

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Wednesdays from 1700 to 1900 in 3rd Floor Sports Bar
Stop by every Wednesday night after a hard day at work and enjoy our free all-you-can-eat taco bar filled with all your favorite toppings. You can catch up on all the latest scores and news in the sports world, play pool, table games or sign up for our weekly cut throat cricket dart game starting at 1830 for your chance to win great prizes from Club Alliance.

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Thursdays from 1900 to 2400 in Sharky's Bar
Sharky's is full of Latin music and dance lovers every Thursday with Yokosuka's best DJs spin your favorite videos and songs all night!

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MILITARY



Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Maj. Gen. Michael Harrison Sr., commander of U.S. Army forces in Japan, and Gen. Eiji Kunitzuka, the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force Chief of Staff, attend a demonstration in Yamanaishi prefecture, Japan, in 2011. Harrison was relieved of his command in Japan and moved to a Pentagon post following claims that he failed to act on sexual assault reports.

General: Harrison announces retirement 1 week after report's release

FROM FRONT PAGE

"Everyone in positions of leadership are accountable," Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said Monday during a visit to a military call center for victims of rape, abuse and incest. "It doesn't make any difference if you're at the top of the military structure, a four-star general, or if you're a private first class. You're accountable."

The military, however, has been slow to impose discipline on offending senior leaders.

The Army suspended Harrison in June for mishandling the case involving the Japanese woman, but only after she took her frustrations outside the chain of command. She complained to the Army inspector general as well as to a Japan-based reporter for Stars & Stripes, a newspaper that covers the military.

After conducting an investigation, the Army inspector general rebuked Harrison in August for protecting the colonel and failing to take appropriate action. But the Army kept the results under wraps until this week, when it released a heavily redacted copy of the investigative report in response to Freedom of Information Act requests filed by The Washington Post.

Despite the suspension and rebuke, the Army brought Harrison back to the Pentagon to take another important position, as director of program analysis and evaluation for an Army deputy chief of staff. He received an administrative letter of reprimand in December for mishandling the sexual-assault case and other complaints, but remains on active duty.

Harrison's attorney said the general officially notified the

Army last week that he intends to retire after 33 years in the service. The lawyer, Michael Nardotti, Jr., said the timing had nothing to do with the Army's decision to finally release the investigative report, six months after The Washington Post first requested it.

"It was clear to him that this is in his best interest," Nardotti said of Harrison's retirement plans. He said that Harrison had accepted responsibility for the mishandling of the sexual assault case but that he wasn't trying to bury the complaint. He also noted that the Army leadership continues to hold him in high esteem.

"People have noted the outstanding job that he has done in that role," Nardotti said of the general's current assignment. "He didn't simply come back and say, 'Now that this adverse action is underway I'm not going to do my job.' He did his job. He's soldiered on for the entire period."

George Wright, an Army spokesman at the Pentagon, said the decision to relieve Harrison of command in Japan and to reprimand him effectively ended his military career.

"There should be no mistake that we will thoroughly investigate any allegations of impropriety and take appropriate action when warranted," Wright said.

Army generals who have gotten in trouble for misconduct or inappropriate behavior toward women have often remained in the ranks for a long time.

Brig. Gen. Bryan Roberts, the former commander of Fort Jackson, S.C., was found guilty in a disciplinary hearing in August of assaulting a mistress and committing adultery; a separate investigation found that he also had affairs

with two other women. He was fined \$5,000 and issued a written reprimand.

He did not retire until April 1, almost eight months later. Army Secretary John McHugh reduced Roberts in rank to colonel, although he remains entitled to retirement benefits under federal law, Army officials said.

Brig. Gen. Martin Schweitzer was admonished by the Army last summer after an internal investigation found that he had emailed crude, sexually explicit jokes to other commanders about a female member of Congress, Rep. Renee Ellmers, R-N.C. Schweitzer — who later told Army investigators that his emails were "childish" and "truly stupid" — still works at the Pentagon on the Joint Staff, although his prior selection for promotion to major general has been placed on hold.

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Sinclair was reprimanded and fined \$20,000 last month after he admitted during a court-martial at Fort Bragg, N.C., that he had a long affair with a female officer under his direct command as well as inappropriate relationships with two other women.

He had originally been charged with sexual assault in March 2012, but that count was dropped as part of a plea deal. He remains on active duty, although his attorneys have said he plans to retire. Army officials said it can often take months to process retirement papers.

Two Air Force lieutenant generals also were forced to retire in recent months after they granted clemency to officers convicted of sexual assault — but only after an outcry from some members of Congress.

In Japan, where the Army has 2,300 soldiers and employs 5,000 civilians, a cascade of leadership problems surfaced at the end of Harrison's tenure as commander.

On the same day that Harrison was suspended in June, the Army suspended or reassigned four colonels who worked for him, as well as a senior civilian official.

Lt. Col. Kevin Toner, a spokesman for U.S. Army Japan, declined to elaborate on the reasons for the mass suspensions and reassignments, except to say that most were unrelated to the investigation targeting Harrison.

One of those suspended was the colonel accused of sexual assault. The Army would not name him because his case did not result in a court-martial, but Toner said the colonel was subjected to administrative discipline.

Toner said the new commanding general, Maj. Gen. James Boozier Sr., conducted leadership surveys at U.S. Army Japan after taking over from Harrison but did not find "systemic concerns about misconduct."

But a female captain who served under Harrison in Japan said that she personally knew of several sexual assault and harassment cases that languished or were dropped. Among them was a complaint she filed against a male major for harassing her during her maternity leave and making sexually offensive remarks.

"The system is so flawed that it's almost not worth reporting anything," said the captain, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because she remains in the Army and fears reprisals. She said some junior officers took sex-crime cases seriously, but "they just kept running into roadblocks."

Comments prompted colonel's suspension

The Associated Press

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — A Fort Carson commander who wasn't allowed to leave for Afghanistan with his troops last month was suspended over allegations that he was insensitive to victims of sexual assault and discrimination, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

The details were reported in The Gazette, based on a 361-page investigative report it obtained under the Federal Freedom of Information Act.

It provided the first account the Army has released about the suspension of Col. Brian Pearl and offers a view into how sensitive the issue of sexual assault has become for the Army. He has since been cleared, cleared, allowing him to join the 4th Brigade Combat Team in Afghanistan.

It said Pearl was suspended after three officers alleged he made insensitive comments during a Feb. 18 meeting of female soldiers that he convened to discuss sexual assault policies after the unit received 27 reports of sexual harassment a assault in a year.

Three female officers alleged he was insensitive, including a captain who called for Pearl, a 25-year veteran, to be relieved of his duty, the newspaper said.

The soldiers who made the allegations against Pearl said he spoke against restricted sexual assault reports, which allow victims to seek counseling anonymously without forcing them to pursue criminal charges.

"The pressure to file unrestricted reports places pressure for a victim to waive their rights," wrote the captain who made the initial report. "Col. Pearl failed to understand that it is a personal and private decision."

Fort Carson previously has said only that Pearl was suspended while being investigated for possible Army policy violations. It's not clear exactly how long he was suspended. The complaint against him was made on Feb. 26 and Fort Carson announced March 11 that he was cleared.

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PACIFIC

Gap between sex assault policy, practice

By ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Navy efforts to address sexual assault in the ranks have improved, but the service still faces challenges ranging from preserving confidentiality to fear of punishment for intervening in a potential assault, sailors told Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Mike Stevens on Wednesday.

The frank discussion with sailors at Yokosuka reflected the potential differences between policy solutions devised by military leaders and how those directives might be playing out in the fleet.

A petty officer 1st class serving

as a unit victim advocate told Stevens and about 1,000 other sailors gathered at the Benny Decker Theater that privacy gaps exist in the military's sexual assault restricted reporting system.

A sexual assault accuser can choose two types of reporting: restricted, which acknowledges the incident and allows the accuser to obtain health care services but preserves the accuser's anonymity; or unrestricted, which does not preserve anonymity but allows charges against the accused to proceed. A restricted report can always be changed later.

The petty officer told Stevens that the accuser's confidentiality rights aren't always being protected.

"There have been instances where sailors have been sexually assaulted and the wrong report goes up, i.e., the chain of command being notified when the chain of command shouldn't be," the victim advocate said.

The comments reflected the fears identified in past studies of those who said they were sexually assaulted.

A 2010 Defense Department survey found that 60 percent of women and 36 percent of men who experienced unwanted sexual contact and did not report it stated that they believed the report wouldn't be kept confidential.

A 2013 report by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights found that confidentiality, even with a

restricted report, may be difficult in deployed environments and on smaller installations.

Also, there are concerns that commanders may try to breach the confidentiality of a restricted report because they prefer to know the details of criminal offenses that occurred in their units.

Stevens noted those concerns in an interview with Stars and Stripes following the discussion.

"We all have to make sure the process is being properly handled and if someone comes forward with a restricted report, then we have to make sure that we do our very best to protect that victim's confidentiality," Stevens said. "I don't deny that it can be difficult at times but that doesn't preclude us from doing our very best and trying."

Another sailor in the audience told Stevens that while the Navy officially encourages bystanders to intervene when they see a situation that could lead to sexual assault, sailors remain reluctant to do so for fear of punishment.

Sometimes, the bystander has been drinking and risks an alcohol-related incident, or ARI, if they intervene. Sailors can receive nonjudicial punishment for

such incidents.

"There have been certain instances at my command where intervention has gone down perfectly but the person who intervened had been drinking, he got an ARI, and that pushes people away," said the sailor, who also suggested training on how sailors should react when someone else tries to intervene.

A female petty officer 2nd class took issue with some of the Navy's messaging and how it portrays men.

"It also seems to have the assumption that only males are the perpetrators of sexual assault and domestic violence," she said. "And I think that is something that we should not be portraying as a military service, for the sake of gender equality."

Sexual assault in the military has drawn increasing scrutiny from Congress and the public during the past year, leading the services to re-examine how they address the crime.

In early November, the Pentagon announced a 46 percent rise in sexual assault reports between October 2012 and June 2013, compared with a year earlier.

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Despite benefits erosions, budget cuts, sailors indicate morale good

By ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A quick show of hands by about 1,000 sailors gathered with the Navy's top enlisted man indicated that morale is good but needs improvement at a time when next year's budget proposals would effectively erode servicemembers' purchasing power.

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Mike Stevens spoke with sailors for about an hour Wednesday, peppering his speech with impromptu polls on quality-of-life and professional issues facing the rank and file.

When Stevens asked them to evaluate morale and gave them options of poor, good, excellent and outstanding, about 80 percent of the room chose the bottom two responses, with "good" receiving a majority of the hands.

Only one sailor rose his hand for "outstanding."

The vast majority of the Navy's enlisted force rates morale as "good" or better, Stevens told Stars and Stripes following the all-hands meeting.

"What 'good' to me says is that there's certainly room for improvement," Stevens said. "But by and large, our force is pretty satisfied with the morale."

It remains to be seen whether morale will stay at current levels if Congress passes a 2015 Defense budget that would limit pay raises and increase servicemember rates for health care, housing and groceries.

"The increases in our quality of life have been improving at a pace that is unsustainable," Stevens told sailors. "It's been greater than our cost of living. They tell us that if we don't level out ... we're going to exceed our capability to provide the quality of work that we do."

"I'm not excited about it either," Stevens said. "But I'm not here to excite you about it."

Another quick show of hands



TREVOR ANDERSON/Stars and Stripes

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Mike Stevens speaks to sailors at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, on Wednesday. Taking an informal poll, Stevens asked the sailors to raise their hands if they would rate Navy morale as "good."

indicated that most sailors in the room believed their compensation packages were still better than those received by their friends in the private sector.

Stevens repeated several times that the compensation proposals are a "slowing of growth," as opposed to cuts.

Stevens is correct in terms of nominal wages.

In real wages — wages adjusted for inflation — the 1 percent increase in proposed military salaries for 2015 is projected to be a cut. Inflation as calculated by the U.S. consumer price index currently stands at 1.5 percent.

Meanwhile, private-sector wage growth is expected to rise to 2.1 percent over last year, according to Bloomberg BNA's projections.

Defense Department civilians and other federal workers experienced cuts in their real wages for the past four years — three of which saw no salary increase,

followed by a 1 percent increase this year.

Stevens conceded that buying power would also be reduced under 2015 budget proposals, which still face potential changes before being voted on by Congress.

They include a rollback of housing allowances that would eventually leave military families paying about 5 percent of their own housing; an increase in Tricare health care fees; and increases in domestic commissary prices due to a \$1 billion proposed cut in funding over the next three years.

The Military Officer Association of America estimates that the proposals will reduce spending power for an E-5 with 10 years of service and a family of four by about \$5,000, and cost an O-3 with the same family and service length about \$5,900.

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UKRAINE UNREST

1st US ground combat troops in Poland

By NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — A company of paratroopers arrived in Poland on Wednesday, the first U.S. ground combat troops to deploy to eastern Europe since the geopolitical crisis in Ukraine began months ago setting Russia and the West in a Cold War-like clinch.

The troops, from the Vicenza-based 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, deployed a day after the Pentagon announced the plan to dispatch units to Poland and the Baltics — about 600 troops in all.

Since the escalation of tensions between NATO and Russia after Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine, the U.S. and NATO allies have dispatched fighter jets and other aircraft to Poland and the Baltics, all of which share a border with Russia. The deployment of troops could be the first step in a move eastern European leaders have long sought: stronger NATO security guarantees and permanent U.S. boots on the ground.

"It is, of course, a political gesture," said Witold Waszczykowski, a Polish diplomat and former foreign minister, referring to the 150 paratroopers arriving in Poland. "It says that this is a first step to change our security status. We hope this is one of the many steps to enhance the security of Poland and central Europe."

Two C-130s from Ramstein Air Base transported the troops to Poland, a spokesman for U.S. Air Forces in Europe said.

Three more company-size elements of the 173rd — about 450 soldiers in all — were being sent to Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania, Pentagon spokesman Col. Steve Warren said Wednesday. "The remaining companies we can move in tomorrow, and by Monday everyone will have arrived."

This will be the first in a series of rotational deployments, to last about a month, for training exercises that will continue through the year and possibly beyond, Pentagon spokesman Rear Adm. John Kirby said.



JASON DUHR/Stars and Stripes

The second of two C-130 cargo planes from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, loaded with servicemembers from the 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team based in Vicenza, Italy, departs Aviano Air Base for Poland on Wednesday.

"Russia's aggression in Ukraine has renewed our resolve to strengthening NATO's defense plans and capabilities, and to demonstrate our continued commitment to collective defense in reinforcing our NATO allies in central and eastern Europe," Kirby said.

About 40,000 Russian troops are massed on Ukraine's eastern border, and U.S. officials say Russia has sent special operatives into eastern Ukraine to destabilize the country, which is not a member of NATO. Russian President Vladimir Putin has asserted the right to intervene in Ukraine to protect the rights of ethnic Russians and Russian speakers.

Asked if sending 600 soldiers to eastern Europe was symbolic, Kirby said no. "Anytime you put troops on the ground and doing exercises, in this case for a month at a time, it's more than symbolism," he said. "The kind of work that we're going to be doing is real infantry training. And that's not insignificant."

Though the Pentagon announced the deployment Tuesday, the unit has been preparing for Poland for the last month or so, said Maj. Benjamin Shepherd, who is temporarily overseeing the

173rd's tactical operations center.

"It has been shorter notice than we would like in terms of our normal," he said.

Due to the compressed preparation schedule, the brigade had less opportunity to develop training plans for the various areas where they'll be working with Polish forces, Shepherd said. But at all sites, the training will include instruction in small arms and tactical vehicle movements, Shepherd said.

Capabilities will expand the longer the 173rd spends in Poland, he said.

"We would really like to jump at each location, because that is what we do and that's cool and that's what we love."

Shepherd said the entire brigade has been organized to support the deployment.

"We actually had a previously planned combined airborne operation with Poland that will be conducted while this training is going on," he said.

Speaking at a ceremony welcoming the 173rd soldiers to Poland, Maj. Gen. Richard Longo, U.S. Army Europe's deputy commander, said that Poland has lived up to its obligations in the NATO alliance.

While many countries have drawn down significantly in Afghanistan, Poland still has nearly 1,000 soldiers on the ground there, according to NATO figures, making it one of the largest troop contributors among allied nations.

Wednesday's ceremony at the Polish airbase at Swidwin "demonstrates that the NATO alliance is committed to Poland as well," Longo said.

The upcoming bilateral training would include maneuvers up to company level as well as live ammunition — training Longo described as "graduate level."

NATO is a mutual defense organization, and an attack on one nation is considered an attack on all. But for years after the tiny Baltic nations joined the alliance in 2004, only rudimentary plans were developed for how to defend them until 2010, and few exercises have tested those plans.

Further, when Poland and the Baltic nations joined, NATO officials said there would be no nuclear weapons, no troops and no major military installations placed in the new member nations.

"Fifteen years ago, when we joined NATO, it was a second-class, class B membership,"

Waszczykowski said of Poland, which was among the first former Warsaw Pact members to join NATO, in 1999.

"It was a completely different geopolitical situation. We expected Russia would — many of us hoped would — follow along with democratization. We know now we were living under an illusion."

Russia has maintained that a mass deployment of NATO forces in Eastern Europe would violate the 1997 security accord which covers the terms of cooperation between Moscow and NATO. Polish officials say that deal has been voided by what they say is Russia's violation of international law.

"This political commitment from the 1990s is not valid anymore," said Waszczykowski, who is a member of the Polish Parliament. "This is a vital interest of NATO, not just something to satisfy our dignity. We hope other countries will deploy troops."

However, European members of NATO are likely to be more reluctant to do so, especially Germany, with its strong economic interests with Russia.

In Brussels, a senior NATO diplomat described the U.S. deployment as a "symbolic" move made in response to Poland's call for the permanent stationing of a large NATO force in its territory.

"They asked for a significant and permanent basing of troops in Poland," said the envoy who spoke on customary condition of anonymity. "Instead (NATO) decided on a small, rotational detachment that will do short-term training with the Polish allies."

Successive Polish governments had repeatedly asked for NATO troops, preferably U.S. troops, to be stationed on Polish soil. Seeking that was one reason Poland deployed troops to Iraq and Afghanistan.

"A permanent deployment has been a constant request for the past 15 years," Waszczykowski said.

Stars and Stripes reporters Jason Duhr, Matt Milham, Slobodan Lekic, Jon Harper and Chris Carroll contributed to this report.

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Warship USS Taylor returns to the Black Sea

Stars and Stripes

A second U.S. Navy warship entered the Black Sea on Tuesday to reassure European allies amid tension over Russia's annexation of Crimea.

The USS Taylor, a guided missile frigate, returned to the Black Sea to replace the guided-missile destroyer USS Cook, which was ordered there earlier this month.

The Taylor recently concluded repairs to its propeller at the Navy base in Souda Bay, Greece, after it ran aground in the Black Sea in February while attempting to moor in Samsun, Turkey.

Officials said the Taylor would briefly overlap with the Cook, and the Navy would abide by the

Montreux Convention — a 1936 international agreement that restricts the passage through the Bosphorus Straits and the Dardanelles of naval ships not belonging to Black Sea states.

In a release, Navy officials said the ship's mission was to promote peace and stability in the region, but the presence of U.S. warships in the Black Sea has irked Russia. Earlier this month a Russian Su-24 fighter jet made a dozen close-range, low-altitude passes near the Cook while it operated in international waters. Pentagon officials called the act "provocative."

While in the Black Sea, the Taylor will participate in exercises with NATO allies and partners in the region, Navy officials said.



EMRAH GUREL/AP

The USS Taylor sails through the Bosphorus Straits in Istanbul, Turkey, on Tuesday en route to the Black Sea.

Russian comments stir worries about Ukraine

DONETSK, Ukraine — Russia's foreign minister on Wednesday promised a firm response if its citizens or interests come under attack in Ukraine — a vow that came after Ukraine announced a renewal of its "anti-terror" campaign against those occupying buildings in its troubled east.

Although Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov did not say Russia would launch a military attack, his comments bolstered wide concern that Russia could use any violence in eastern Ukraine as a pretext for sending in troops. Large contingents of Russian troops are in place near the Ukrainian border.

"Russian citizens being attacked is an attack against the Russian Federation," Lavrov said.

From The Associated Press

PACIFIC

Regional news overshadows Obama's Asia visit

Ferry disaster, North Korea nuclear tensions likely to dominate trip meant to focus on Pacific pivot

By ASHLEY ROWLAND
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — One of South Korea's worst civilian disasters, the ferry accident that claimed the lives of several hundred passengers, is unfolding on live TV. North Korea, which seems to be trending up again on the belligerency scale, may be preparing to test another nuclear weapon.

Oh, and President Barack Obama is coming Friday.

"It may be one of the few times that a U.S. president comes here to Seoul and the primary news story is not about the U.S. president coming to Seoul," Victor Cha, Korea chair for the Center for Strategic and International Studies, told reporters on the sidelines of an academic conference in Seoul on Wednesday.

With bodies being pulled around the clock from a submerged passenger ferry off the country's southwest coast, the president's two-day visit will no doubt be overshadowed by the April 16 sinking that is believed to have left about 300 dead, including scores of high school students on a field trip to a tourist island.

A week after the accident, which increasingly appears to have been caused by human error and lax adherence to safety standards, heart-wrenching images of fu-

nerals for the victims are continuously shown on television, alongside the somber procession of shrouded bodies being transported from recovery boats to tents for identification by their families.

Meanwhile, South Korea announced this week that it has detected increased activity around a main nuclear test site in North Korea — a possible indicator that Pyongyang could soon conduct its fourth nuclear test, despite ongoing sanctions and warnings from the international community.

Cha said Obama's Asia visit — which began with an informal meeting Wednesday with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Tokyo — is meant to demonstrate that the U.S. rebalance to the region is real but that it isn't meant to contain China.

To that end, the president's agenda includes cultural, business and trade-related stops that will showcase the nonmilitary aspect of the Pacific pivot. In Seoul, Obama is scheduled to visit a centuries-old palace and meet with members of the local American Chamber of Commerce. In light of the ferry tragedy, Cha said, some of those activities might be cut. Obama will likely reference his own daughters in offering condolences for the tragedy, he said.

Obama and South Korean President Park Geun-hye are expected to discuss a number of critical issues, from the his-

torical grievances that have strained the relationship between America's key allies in the region, Seoul and Tokyo, to North Korea's nuclear capabilities.

"The timing of this visit is very important to demonstrate a strong military alliance and send a strong diplomatic message to North Korea, for them to come back to the negotiating table," Cha said, adding that a fourth nuclear test "would make a return to diplomacy very, very difficult."

The U.S.-Korea Institute at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies said in an analysis posted on its 38 North website that, based on satellite imagery, the level of activity at the Punggye-ri site does not indicate a test is imminent.

Some have speculated that Pyongyang, which threatened last month to conduct a nuclear test, is timing its next test to take place during Obama's visit.

However, James Steinberg, former U.S. deputy secretary of state under Obama, said Tuesday at the conference, hosted by the Asian Institute for Policy Studies, that if the test comes while the president is in Seoul, the U.S. should not react to it more forcefully than it normally would.

"In some ways, it would be playing into (North Korea's) hands to say that it's worse" than if a nuclear test took place while Obama was in the U.S., he said.

The two presidents will also likely discuss the continuing tensions between Seoul and Tokyo over Japan's militaristic past. Many in South Korea believe Japan has not fully acknowledged atrocities committed during its 35-year occupation of the Korean Peninsula, which ended in 1945, and related issues, including the use of sex slaves by Japanese soldiers.

Tokyo's push for more military spending and reconsideration of its doctrine of self-defense has only angered many in South Korea, where some believe Japan retains imperial ambitions.

Steinberg said it is important to separate concerns about history and the legitimate security concerns that are prompting Japan to consider military expansion. While the U.S. can help facilitate discussion between the two countries, he said it shouldn't be seen as taking sides.

Both countries should feel confident that the U.S. stands beside them, but not rely on Washington "to try to be the one that finds the right answer," Steinberg said.

"I think it's unproductive to get into questions of who's to blame," he said. "I think the question is, how do we move forward? Anybody who has spent time in the region, who lives in the region, understands that these issues have resonance today."

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Above: Divers look for people trapped in the sunken ferry Sewol off the southern coast near Jindo, south of Seoul, South Korea, on Wednesday.

Right: Searchers and divers have been going through compartments of the ferry where people are believed to have sought refuge.

PHOTOS BY YONHAP/AP



Navy sends diving, recovery vessel to ferry sinking site

By ASHLEY ROWLAND
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A Navy diving and recovery vessel is heading to South Korea's southwest coast and could take part in the recovery of a ferry that sank a week ago.

The departure of a Navy amphibious assault ship and aircraft from the disaster site and the pending arrival of the USNS Safeguard highlight the transition from a rescue to recovery effort in what is shaping up to be one of South Korea's worst peacetime disasters.

Of the Sewol's 476 passengers, only 174 survivors have been found. As of noon Wednesday, 156 bodies — many of them high school students on a school trip to Jeju Island — had been pulled from the ferry. Divers have been going through compartments where a number of people are believed to have sought refuge before the ferry sank, according to South Korea's Yonhap News.

The number of corpses recovered has risen sharply since the weekend, when divers battling strong currents and low visibility were finally able to enter the submerged vessel. The recovery effort was reaching a new, more complicated phase Wednesday, with an official saying divers must now rip through cabin walls to retrieve more victims.

The government has warned that the work might eliminate air pockets that could be sustaining

survivors, but for some relatives that is a long-lost hope.

The Navy's 7th Fleet said in a statement that the Safeguard "is being pre-positioned as a precautionary measure to support recovery operations if requested by the South Korean government."

As of early Wednesday afternoon, the Navy had not received an official request.

Meanwhile, the USS Bonhomme Richard left waters around Jindo, South Korea, on Tuesday after spending nearly a week assisting in the search. MH-60 Seahawk helicopters, MV-22 Ospreys and UH-1Y Hueys based on the ship had been searching an area about 5 to 15 nautical miles from the sunken ship.

The Bonhomme Richard was conducting routine maritime operations in the Yellow Sea when the Sewol sank, and traveled to the disaster site the same day. The amphibious assault ship, forward-deployed to Sasebo, Japan, had taken part in the joint U.S.-South Korean Ssang Yong exercise that ended earlier this month.

Two Navy diving and salvage experts remain embarked on the Dokdo, a South Korean amphibious ship, to advise South Korean naval forces on diving matters.

"The team will also be providing practical experience and computer modeling in support of the search, rescue and recovery operations for their South Korean navy diving counterparts," a 7th Fleet statement said.

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MILITARY

First lady announces one-stop job site for vets

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Aiming to streamline employment resources for people leaving the military, the government is creating an integrated website that can help job-seekers create resumes, connect with employers and become part of a database of veterans and their spouses for companies to mine for skills and talents.

First lady Michelle Obama was announcing the launch of the new Veterans Employment Center on Wednesday at Fort Campbell, Ky., during a special veterans' jobs summit organized by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, the Pentagon and the departments of Veterans Affairs and Labor.

'I was a sniper in the Marine Corps. How many jobs do you think the civilian world, the corporate world has for snipers? So how do you market that?'

Dakota Meyer
Medal of Honor recipient

as U.S. participation in those conflicts has ended or winds down. Unemployment among veterans who have served since September 2001 was 9 percent in 2013, about 1.6 percentage points higher than in the overall civilian population.

The website, benefitsfirst.com, is the first online resource that combines information provided by a variety of agencies and employers. It will help veterans and military spouses build resumes, highlight military skills into private-sector aptitudes and provide career and training data with a mouse click.

Dakota Meyer, an Afghan War veteran and Medal of Honor recipient, is working with the Chamber of Commerce Foundation in its outreach to veterans.

"I was a sniper in the Marine Corps," Meyer said. "How many jobs do you think the civilian world, the corporate world has for snipers? So how do you market that?"

The tool will help translate your skills over to whatever the corporate world is going to understand. So being a sniper — leadership skills, discipline, integrity, whatever-it-takes attitude, personal management. These are skills that any corporation is looking for."



Marine One, with President Barack Obama onboard, prepares to land on the South Lawn of the White House in 2009.

AP

Marine One replacement needs to avoid past procurement problems

By CHRISTIAN DAVENPORT

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The last time the Pentagon tried to upgrade the president's coolest ride — the fleet of helicopters that drop him at his doorstep on the South Lawn of the White House — it didn't go well. Costs doubled. Delays sparked ridicule, then outrage.

President Barack Obama, then just a few weeks in office, said it was "an example of the procurement process gone amok" before defense officials killed the program outright.

It was an embarrassing debacle that cost \$3.2 billion and produced no usable helicopter, turning an iconic symbol of presidential power into an illustration of government waste and incompetence. Now, five years later, the aircraft are more in need of replacement than ever, some almost 40 years old.

The Navy is on the verge of awarding the contract again — a process that will test whether it can learn from the past and whether the Pentagon can purchase major systems without busting budgets and deadlines.

The Navy has vowed to get it right this time, and it says it has taken many steps to ensure that the problems that plagued the program before — when the projected cost doubled to \$13 billion — won't be repeated.

But critics are already pointing to what they say could be serious problems. There appears to be only one bid on the project — led by the company that lost out last time — and some fear that the lack

Navy scales back aircraft concept

In the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, replacing the helicopters — which fly under the call sign "Marine One" when the president is aboard — became a priority for the Pentagon.

In 2005, a team led by Lockheed Martin won the contract, beating out Sikorsky, which built the helicopters currently used in the Marine One program. Soon it became a case study in how not to build a helicopter, analysts say. The design became so overloaded with new requirements — to be able to hover longer and at high altitudes, travel great distances without refueling and defend against missile attacks — it essentially

became an impossible task. "Too many people had a seat at the table," said Richard Aboulafia, an aviation analyst at the Teal Group. "Everyone was chiming in for good measure. ... Basically, they were building something to survive a nuclear war. Literally."

In 2009, the Pentagon killed the program and eventually sold the helicopters that were already in production to Canada for spare parts. Since then, the Navy has dramatically scaled back the ambitions for the aircraft, officials said, and will use existing, proven technologies instead of trying to build new ones specifically for the helicopter.

— Christian Davenport

affordable."

While declining to provide a cost for the program, he said it would be "significantly less" than the \$13 billion price tag it reached before the previous contract was canceled.

The first helicopters could be available by the end of 2020 "if everything goes ideally," he said.

In reviewing the program, the Government Accountability Office has noted how the Navy has reduced the passenger capacity, range and speed, among other things, which has led to "a streamlined acquisitions approach."

It concluded that the waiver allowing it to bypass the prototype requirement was justified because the cost of the prototypes would have exceeded the amount they would ultimately save the Defense Department.

Recruits trending older in US ranks

By GREGG ZOROVA
USA Today

New recruits in the U.S. military are getting slightly older, with more than half of Army enlistees age 20 or above compared with a few decades ago when only a third were in the older age group, according to a RAND Corp. study released Wednesday.

The trend is a boon for the military because older recruits have a greater tendency to re-enlist and achieve promotions at higher rates than those who join out of high school, the report says.

Many told researchers they delayed signing up for the military to attend college. Some 38 percent said they simply wanted to take some time off after high school.

About a third of older recruits said they ultimately chose the military because of a weak civilian job market. Half said the market offered nothing but "dead-end jobs."

"For these recruits, the Army provided a second chance," said Bernard Rostker, lead author of the study.

Researchers also discovered that the U.S. military is becoming increasingly insular within society because those who join increasingly come from military families or have close friends who served in uniform.

"The U.S. military has become a family business for many Americans," Rostker said.

Researchers sifted through military entrance processing materials and also surveyed 5,373 Army recruits in 2008 and 2009.

More than eight out of 10 said they had a close relative who served in the military, and nearly half had a close family member who retired from a service branch, the study says. For 38 percent of the recruits, the close family member was a father, for 6 percent a mother.

Some 44 percent of new recruits enlist in the active-duty Army while in high school or shortly afterward, compared with 65 percent in 1992. Twenty-one percent waited until they were ages 20-21; 18 percent were 22-24; 8 percent were 25-27; and 9 percent were 28-42, the data show.

Other service branches saw similar patterns, with 52 percent of Navy recruits and half of Air Force enlistees ages 20 or older. Only a third of new Marines are 20 or older.

The report says, older Army recruits said that joining the military "gave them an opportunity to leave home and start again — even though they understood that in doing so, they were likely to be deployed to a combat zone."

MILITARY

Afghan election results delayed

By Kay Johnson
The Associated Press

KABUL — Afghanistan's election commission delayed a planned release of full results from the April 5 presidential election to allow for recounts and audits, officials said Wednesday, a development that adds to the confusion surrounding the balloting to replace President Hamid Karzai.

The results were expected on Thursday, but Independent Election Commission director Ziaul-haq Amarkhil said in a statement they would be postponed until at least Saturday to ensure they are not tainted by fraud.

"The commission is responsible to the Afghan electorate," Amarkhil said.

The winner will replace Karzai, who is ineligible for a third term, and oversee a tumultuous period as the U.S. and NATO are expected to withdraw most of their troops from the country by the end of this year, leaving Afghan

forces to fight the fierce Taliban insurgency on their own.

Karzai, whose relations with Washington have sharply deteriorated, is the only president the country has known since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion ousted the Taliban. The full results, now expected on Saturday, will still be preliminary and must be further investigated by a separate Election Complaints Commission before final results are to be announced May 14.

So far, partial results of about half the 7 million votes cast show former foreign minister Abdullah Abdullah in the lead with 44.5 percent of the votes tallied and ex-finance minister Asraf Ghani Ahmadzai in second place with 33.2 percent. After yet more ballots are tallied, another batch of partial results are to be released Thursday, IEC spokesman Noor Mohammad Noor said in a televised press conference Wednesday.

It's unclear if either Abdul-



RAHMAT GUL/AP

Afghan election workers count votes Sunday at the Independent Election Commission in Kabul. The election commission director has delayed the release of preliminary results.

lah or Ahmadzai would secure a majority to avoid a runoff. Each insists he would pass the 50 per-

cent mark once all the votes are counted and fraudulent votes discounted. If neither candidate

gains a majority, a runoff would need to be held in late May or early June.

Medal of Honor honoree White draws attention to PTSD stigma

By Jon Harper
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Former Army Sgt. Kyle J. White, who will be awarded the Medal of Honor next month, said troops suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder shouldn't suffer in silence.

"There's no shame in going and getting help," White, who was diagnosed with PTSD before he left the military, said at a news conference Wednesday in Charlotte, N.C.

The first thing that servicemembers with symptoms of PTSD need to do is reach out and get help, he said.

"These servicemembers need to realize that they went to war and they made it back, but they might have some scars remaining," he said. "Reach out to your chain of command, and they will help you get the treatment that you need. If I can do it ... then there's no reason they can't as well."

He said getting troops to come forward and tell people they're suffering is perhaps the biggest challenge to tackling the mental health issues that many combat veterans face.

The treatment and assistance programs are out there, he said.

"But I think it's just those first steps — that servicemember who needs help coming forward and actually admitting, 'Hey, I need to go see somebody' — that's the issue that needs to be addressed, I believe."

White, 27, will receive the Medal of Honor — the nation's highest award for military valor — for his actions during a dismounted movement in mountainous terrain in Aranas, Afghanistan, on Nov. 9, 2007.

White was serving as a Platoon Radio Telephone Operator assigned to Company C, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade, when his team of U.S. and Afghan National Army soldiers were set up and ambushed by a much larger, more heavily armed Taliban force after a meeting with Afghan villagers. During a marathon battle, he exposed himself to heavy enemy fire and risked his life numerous times to help his wounded comrades.

By the time the fight in Aranas ended, six U.S. servicemembers had been killed. White paid tribute to his fallen comrades at the news conference.

"On 9 November 2007, America did not lose five soldiers and one Marine, but gained six heroes," he said. "I will forever be a voice for them. I will tell their stories and preserve their memories ..."

"Although they are gone, they will not be forgotten. Their sacrifice and the sacrifices of so many others is what motivates me to wake up each and every day and be the best that I can be. Anything I do in my life is done to make them proud."

White also offered some advice to younger servicemembers for

improving their chances of surviving war.

"Take all of the advice you can from those who have been deployed before, those who have more experience than you, and then also your leadership," he said. "Learn as much as you can, and then take as much advice that's out there, because that piece of advice that that leader gives you could be the one that saves you or your buddy's life."

White will be awarded the Medal of Honor at a White House ceremony on May 13. He will be the seventh living recipient to receive the Medal of Honor for actions in Iraq or Afghanistan.

White, a native of Seattle, separated from the Army on July 8, 2011, and used his GI Bill to attend the University of North Carolina. He now works as an investment analyst for the Royal Bank of Canada in Charlotte.

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Judge gives OK for Manning's name change

LEAVENWORTH, Kan. — A Kansas judge granted a request Wednesday to formally change the name of the soldier convicted of leaking classified documents to WikiLeaks from Bradley Edward Manning to Chelsea Elizabeth Manning.

The former intelligence analyst is serving a 35-year prison sentence for passing classified U.S. government information to the anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks. Manning is serving the sentence at the Army prison on Fort Leavenworth in Kansas.

Leavenworth County District Judge David King said he'd allow the name change during a court hearing that lasted about a minute. Manning didn't attend the hearing but issued a statement saying it was "an exciting day."

The decision clears the way for official changes to Manning's military records, but it would not compel the military to treat Manning as a woman. That includes transferring Manning to a prison with a woman's unit.

Soldier faces hearing in killings of Iraqi boys

JOINT BASE LEWIS-McCHORD, Wash. — A U.S. soldier accused of deliberately killing two unarmed teenage boys as they herded cattle in Iraq seven years ago was to face a military court Wednesday.

Sergeant 1st Class Michael Barbera has been charged with premeditated murder and faces a mandatory life sentence if convicted. He was set for a preliminary hearing Wednesday at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington state.

The Army has released few details about the allegations against him.

The March 2007 killings were documented in a 2012 investigation by the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, which said soldiers who served with Barbera had reported the slayings and remained troubled that he hadn't been prosecuted.

Barbera was most recently stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.

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OPINION

Afghan attack brings memory of pain

By TRACEE HERBAUGH

When news broke this month that two Associated Press journalists were attacked in Afghanistan, a familiar feeling of loss and powerlessness immediately took hold of me.

Anja Niedringhaus and Kathy Gannon were sitting in a car when an Afghan police officer fired on them. While I never had the fortune to know Anja, who was killed instantly, Kathy has filled an important role in my life for two decades, since my mother, a foreign correspondent with the AP, was killed when the helicopter she was riding in crashed into a mountainside in Afghanistan.

Hearing of the attack on Kathy, who was seriously wounded and remains hospitalized in Germany, I felt like my life had come full circle in a single moment.

In 1993, my mother, Sharon Herbaugh, was the first news bureau chief for The Associated Press to die while on assignment. In the days following the crash, the phone at my grandparents' home in Colorado rang nonstop with calls from State Department officials, friends and journalists from all over the world.

Kathy took charge of maintaining communication between my family and the AP. She also oversaw the return of Sharon's body back home, to a farming town on the dusty plains of southeast Colorado.

Kathy traveled from Islamabad to Kabul for the grisly task of confirming that it was indeed Sharon lying in the morgue. Her body, along with the 14 others who were on the helicopter that day, was not retrieved for several hours after the crash. The bodies sat baking in the hot Afghan sun, so the decomposition process was well underway.

This was particularly unsettling, Kathy would later tell me, because Sharon was always very proud of her looks. She was a slim 130 pounds at 5 feet 8 inches tall. She kept her hair in long tresses and wore expensive clothing and high-heeled pumps. But none of that mattered anymore.

In the two decades that have followed Sharon's death, Kathy has maintained a regular presence in my life. I exchanged emails with her only two days before she was attacked on the eve of Afghanistan's elections. Much of what I know about my mother I've learned from Kathy. And she was often a source of support as my grandmother and I navigated the grieving process.

After the violent death of a journalist, much attention is focused on the bravery of the fallen individual. Words like "hero" and "trailblazer" are commonly used. Journalists take on a role much like our military warriors in that they put themselves in harm's way for a cause in which they believe. The difference is that most journalists are armed only with pens and notebooks with the goal of bringing about a better understanding of our world.

As a survivor of a loss that I did not see in the line of duty, I ignore all the accolades and think only of the families and loved ones left behind who have to try to make sense of something that is incomprehensible. The pain left in the wake of Sharon's death has been very real, but very different for my grandmother and me.

My grandmother will talk endlessly about her love and adoration she has for her daughter. But my experience has been far more complicated emotionally. It seems the only similarity in our pain is that we both have never gotten over it.

Sharon's decision to pursue a foreign post in a conflict region, while leaving me with my grandmother, has been the single most defining factor in my life. I was 13 at the time of her death, but she'd left the



PETER DEJONG/AP

Associated Press photographer Anja Niedringhaus, who was killed in an attack in Afghanistan, poses in Rome in April 2005.

United States about six years before the helicopter accident, stationed first in New Delhi and later in Islamabad. She spent four years covering the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan and the country's subsequent civil war, which included the rising insurgencies from the Taliban and mujahadeen.

I was a precocious kid, and the relationship between my mother and me had fractured early on. I remember once when my mom visited us in Colorado in 1990, and I

Hearing of the attack ... I felt like my life had come full circle in a single moment.

was avoiding my homework. She began to get frustrated with me, but there were no parental boundaries in place. "You should go back to India," I hissed. She asked if that was what I wanted, and I simply replied, "Yes."

When she couldn't get home for an extended period, she would call and ask to speak to me. Every time, I refused. Once my grandmother asked me why I wouldn't answer. I only asked if my mother would come back if I were sick and dying in a hospital. "She would if she could," my grandmother responded. I wasn't happy with the answer, but it was not unexpected. It was a familiar feeling of dismissal.

The years following Sharon's death have been filled mostly with anger. It wasn't the usual teenage angst. A question posed by an innocent person could elicit a long line of expletives from me. And I've corrected people who have referred to her as "Mom," saying she was only a vessel for my birth.

I was hugely embarrassed about my family. Sharon refused to tell me, or anyone, any information about my father. Not even his name. My grandmother, to this day doesn't have any more details than I do. I've reached out to Sharon's closest friends, and none of them say they know.

People were intrigued by Sharon's career, which I knew little about. How did she get into journalism? Are you moving abroad to be with her? And I'd become annoyed at people who assumed I would follow in my mother's footsteps and pursue journalism. And yet, I did. I was encouraged down the path into journalism by



COURTESY OF THE HERBAUGH FAMILY/The Washington Post

Tracee Herbaugh is shown with her mother, Sharon Herbaugh, at Parkview Elementary School in Lamar, Colo., during a presentation Sharon gave on foreign correspondents in 1990.

friends, family and acquaintances. I didn't know what else I wanted to do. But once I headed in this direction, it became impossible to change course. I learned to love writing, and I love the intellectual part of it, examining larger issues in society and looking at why humans — even mothers — behave the way they do.

Being able to find a peace regarding my relationship with my mother has been an enormous blessing. It didn't come easy, and I can't pinpoint when it happened. Now that I have a 3-year-old son, I've gained a better understanding of the everyday difficulties in maintaining a successful and happy life. Perhaps it was the years that have elapsed, too.

I've come to realize that although I may not have memories of a mother who took long walks with me or who was there to celebrate my achievements, I am proud of Sharon's work in Afghanistan and her role in breaking glass ceilings for women. And I have gained other important relationships in the wake of her death, such as my friendship with Kathy, that are invaluable.

I will never have an emotionally satisfying relationship with my mother, and I've accepted that. It's not what I want, but it is what I have.

This article first appeared in the Washington Post.

OPINION

US must stand behind its security obligations

By MICHAEL CHERTOFF

On the eve of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, Gen. James Mattis admonished the 1st Marine Division to "[demonstrate to the world there is] No Better Friend, No Worse Enemy." That motto could serve as a guiding principle for sound national security policy. Regrettably, our allies wonder whether the United States is demonstrating the reverse.

Since leaving as secretary of homeland security in January 2009, I have talked with officials from friendly nations in Asia and the Middle East. Increasingly, I hear skepticism about whether the United States remains a reliable ally our friends can trust for support against attacks. Those private conversations echo public statements by leaders in the Persian Gulf states and Asia expressing concern that they may have to fend for themselves in the face of military challenges from Iran, China or North Korea.

The deterrent value of alliances and treaties depends on convincing potential adversaries that we will respond to aggression against our partners as firmly as if aggression were directed against ourselves. Establishing that as a credible warning means being measured in what we say and matching our deeds to our words. Often, we have done neither.

U.S. intervention in Libya was prompted not by an alliance or treaty commitment but by a humanitarian impulse. Our insistence on multilateral action was sensible, but the characterization of this as "leading from behind" unfortunately implied that we were trying to lead from the rear. That echoed the perception that U.S. security policy prioritized exiting Iraq and Afghanistan and avoiding all but surgical military action in the future.

More serious is the perception that the U.S. approach to Syria has been a combination of bluster and retreat.

In August 2011, President Barack Obama said that "the time has come for President Assad to step aside." We invested little in aid or support to effect that. One year later, the president articulated his red line on Bashar Assad's use of chemical weapons. Rightly or wrongly, he did so without obtaining a promise of congressional backing.



Then-Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, center, exits a press conference in Washington in 2007.

But when proof of that use became unmistakable, the president abruptly decided that he should seek legislative approval. And when that became a chance, he seized upon a Russian "off ramp" that has succeeded in entrenching Assad's status and, according to the March update from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, has not come close to eliminating Syria's chemical weapons or weapons capability.

One Asian official with whom I spoke this year expressly pointed to Syria as a reason to doubt U.S. willingness to stand with allies against an increasingly assertive China. Interestingly, he also cited the recent memoir by former defense secretary Robert Gates to question whether U.S. aversion to conflict means shaky commitments in what is an increasingly risky region. Even at home, 70 percent of Americans believe the United States is less respected than in the past, according to a December poll by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press.

Not surprisingly, Russian President Vladimir Putin appears to have read our passivity as a license to pursue control, if

not conquest, of his neighbors. He has effectively repudiated the 1994 Budapest memorandum on security assurances in which Ukraine agreed to give up its nuclear arsenal in exchange for commitments from the United States, Britain and Russia to ensure its political independence and territorial sovereignty. U.S. disregard for those security assurances, which were renewed in 2009, suggests that Russia may regard them as empty promises.

Of course, diminished U.S. credibility is a result of more than administration policy. Some neo-isolationist Republican lawmakers and advocacy groups have repeatedly disparaged the value of standing with our allies or been dismissive of aggression on the other side of the globe. They have supported budget cuts that seriously diminish U.S. military capabilities and contradict our promises of support for allies.

Make no mistake: A world that doubts whether the United States will stand with its allies is a much more dangerous world. If nations in the Middle East and Asia believe that we are irresolute in our security

commitments, they will make their own arrangements. The risk of miscalculation leading to conflict will increase. Some nations will take the lesson that securing themselves requires obtaining nuclear capability. And when countries believe our red lines are revocable or mere bluffs, the danger that they will provoke a war increases, as did Saddam Hussein's misreading of U.S. intentions in 1990, which led to the invasion of Kuwait.

A strategy reset requires that we define and articulate real red lines, that we maintain the soft and hard power to enforce those red lines and that when red lines are crossed, we respond with strong economic action, military assistance or even military action. A clearly articulated alliance strategy backed with resolute action is the only way to restore lasting stability that promotes security at home and around the globe.

Michael Chertoff was secretary of the Department of Homeland Security from 2005 to 2009. He co-founded and is chairman of the Chertoff Group, a global security and risk management advisory firm. This commentary first appeared in *The Washington Post*.

Obama's good news isn't getting through to the voters

By ALBERT R. HUNT
Bloomberg News

There's a bit of good news for nervous Democrats: President Barack Obama's health care law isn't going to be the albatross many feared it would be in this year's congressional elections. Enrollment has soared, and the Congressional Budget Office estimates that the program will cost less than initially projected and that premiums will rise only slightly this year. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid aren't popping the Champagne, however. The economy could clobber Democrats in November. And the president continues to alternate between telling Americans how much he loves them and deploring how many are being left behind.

Both statements are true, but that makes for a message that's muddled, incoherent and too negative.

The Senate leadership and White House staff have started to meet each week to develop a coordinated economic message for the fall. They have a ways to go.

Politicians see the same poll numbers, the news media does. In a recent Wall Street Journal-NBC News poll, the sentiment about the economy showed no positive movement. A Bloomberg national survey last month indicated more pessimism than a year before about the economy, job growth and housing. A majority said they thought health care costs were getting worse and gave Obama negative marks on health care and the economy.

Congressional Democrats find it especially frustrating that the president doesn't make a strong and more compelling case for the improvements on his watch. On health care, it isn't just that 8 million people have signed up for coverage under the law; health care costs have been growing at the slowest pace in decades.

The Federal Reserve has forecast the economy will grow at a clip of about 3 percent this year, after five years of average growth of less than 2 percent after the financial crisis. Housing has climbed out of its slump, the energy industry is booming, the financial sector has recovered along with lending, and manufacturing is at least crawling, with a vibrant automobile industry.

Compared with the rest of the world, this is a great American comeback story. Europe is struggling; there are increasing worries about China. And Russia, despite its swagger, is an economic basket case, with a gross domestic product smaller than that of Brazil and about the same size as Italy's.

But there's a darker side to the American picture. The underemployment rate — which includes the jobless, those working part-time for economic reasons and those who want a job but have quit looking — was at 12.7 percent in March. Average hourly earnings have been essentially stagnant for the past five years.

That bothers Obama, as it should. Yet his attempts to tell this tale of two cities produce a disjointed narrative and a sense of a president still in campaign mode.

That's scary for Democrats on the ballot this year. Many of the crucial races are in Republican or Republican-leaning states where the president is unpopular and his health care law still could be a liability.

And on the economy, which is likely to be the determining issue in the congressional contests, the White House and Democrats are winning on the parts or pieces — a minimum wage increase, pay equity for women,

more generous overtime regulations — and losing the fight for the larger picture of people's lives and futures.

The White House says the president has repeatedly evoked the good news. The problem, aides contend, has been breaking through with a clear message. One time he did so was when he pushed health care reform on "Between Two Ferns," the webcast hosted by the comedian Zach Galifianakis, which had two and a half times more viewers than the network nightly news.

Although Obama's personal story is one of can-do optimism, that isn't what he often conveys. He had a similar problem of tone during his 2012 re-election campaign, as he struggled to frame the message of an improving economy.

That turned around almost exactly two months before Election Day. The moment: former President Bill Clinton's speech to the Democratic National Convention in which he articulated how much the economy had improved since Obama took office and why continuing that progress hinged on his re-election.

That sound you hear from the Capitol's Democratic cloakrooms these days? "Bring Back Bubba."

NATION

President visits town mourning after mudslide

The Seattle Times

OSO, Wash. — President Barack Obama spent more than an hour comforting the families of the dead and missing from last month's mudslide, traveling Tuesday to the devastated community "just to let you know that the country is thinking about all of you."

The president's visit to meet the families and thank first-responders was gratefully and graciously accepted by the community.

Obama, on his way to Tokyo, flew into Everett's Paine Field on Air Force One, then flew over the site of the March 22 mudslide in a Marine helicopter.

He met privately with the families of victims at the Oso Community Chapel.

Obama then met and addressed local officials, residents and first-responders at the Oso Fire Department.

The president said he was awed by the effort that has gone into the response and grueling monthlong search.

"We've all been inspired by the incredible way that the community has come together and shown the love and support that they have for each other in ways large

and small," Obama said. "And to see the strength in adversity of this community I think should inspire all of us, because this is also what America is all about."

"Michelle and I grieve with you," he said. "And we're very, very proud of all of you."

Accompanying the president was Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, Sens. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, Rep. Suzan DelBene and local officials, including Snohomish County Executive John Lovick and the mayors of Darrington and Arlington, the towns that bookend the slide.

The president's visit was punctuated by the announcement from the state's congressional delegation of the release of \$7.5 million in Federal Emergency Management Agency funds to help Snohomish County absorb the costs of one of the state's worst natural disasters.

The half-mile-wide slide came down a month ago, burying dozens of homes and state Highway 530 in shattered debris up to 70 feet deep. The slide changed the course of the North Fork of the Stillaguamish River and swept away entire neighborhoods. Forty-one people were killed and two more remain missing.



JOSHUA TRUHLER, POOL/AP

President Barack Obama hugs Arlington, Wash., Mayor Barbara Tolbert as he visits the Oso Fire Station where he greeted and spoke with rescuers near the scene of last month's deadly Oso mudslide.

Reporters were not allowed in as Obama met for an hour and 15 minutes with the families at the chapel. Witnesses said he entered through a side door and asked everyone to remain seated. He then made his way around the room to personally speak with those there.

Among the group were the three brothers of Steve Hadaway, 53, one of the two people still missing. He had been installing a satellite dish on the home of

Amanda Lennick when the slide hit.

Lennick also died, along with two other workmen who had been at her home when the mudslide barreled down the hill.

"I was worried it was going to be in and out, and kind of a smoke screen, but it definitely was not," Frank Hadaway, 51, of Puyallup, said of the president's visit.

"He greeted everybody, and talked to every single person. It was pretty unbelievable."

Mother sues over crash that killed Calif. students

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The mother of a 17-year-old honors student who was among 10 people killed in a fiery Northern California bus crash sued FedEx on Tuesday, alleging that its trucks have a history of catching fire.

The negligence suit that seeks \$100 million in damages is the first filed in connection with the April 10 freeway crash in Orland, said A. King Aminpour, the attorney for the plaintiffs.

The suit was filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court on behalf of Rosa Rivera, mother of Jennifer Bonilla, of Los Angeles.

The Dorsey High School student had earned a college scholarship. She and other teens were heading north for a free tour of Humboldt State University when the bus was struck head-on by a FedEx truck. Dozens escaped through windows before the bus exploded into towering flames, but five students, three adult

chaperones and both drivers died.

The California Highway Patrol has not determined the cause of the crash 100 miles north of Sacramento.

Some witnesses reported that the FedEx truck was on fire before the crash, and the lawsuit alleges that FedEx Corp. gave a history of catching fire from mechanical problems, driver error or improper cargo loading.

"Our heartfelt condolences remain with everyone affected by this tragic accident," Memphis, Tenn.-based FedEx Corp. said in a statement. "We remain focused on providing support to those affected and cooperating with the authorities as they conduct their investigation. This is not the time for us to discuss potential litigation."

The suit also names the estate of the FedEx driver and the bus owner, Silverado Stages, as defendants.

The bus lacked adequate exit doors, the lawsuit contends.

Suit alleges a violation of rights over no-fly list

The Washington Post

Awais Sajjad, a lawful permanent U.S. resident living in the New York area, learned he was on the no-fly list in September 2012 after he tried to board a flight to Pakistan at John F. Kennedy International Airport and was turned back.

At the airport, FBI agents questioned Sajjad, a Muslim, before releasing him. They later returned with an offer: In exchange for working for them, the FBI could provide him with U.S. citizenship and compensation. The FBI, the agents reminded Sajjad, also had the power to decide who was on the no-fly list.

When he refused, the FBI agents "kept him on the list in order to pressure and coerce Mr. Sajjad to sacrifice his constitutionally protected rights," according to an amended lawsuit filed Tuesday.

The lawsuit, filed on behalf of Sajjad and three other men, accuses the United States of violating their rights by placing or keeping them on the no-fly list after they declined to spy on local Muslim communities in New York, New

Jersey and Nebraska.

"The no-fly list is supposed to be about ensuring aviation safety but the FBI is using it to force innocent people to become informants," said Ramzi Kassem, associate professor of law at the City University of New York. "The practice borders on extortion."

The Creating Law Enforcement Accountability & Responsibility project, which Kassem supervises, and the Center for Constitutional Rights filed suit on behalf of the men.

The FBI declined to comment Tuesday. U.S. officials have in the past said that the process used to place individuals on the no-fly list is legal and well-founded and relies on credible intelligence.

The no-fly list, which contains the names of thousands of people, was created after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, and includes U.S. citizens and residents as well as foreigners not permitted to fly into or out of the United States because of specific security concerns.

Human rights activists have said the list has repeatedly ensnared those with no demonstrable connection to terrorism.

Nev. GOP moves to middle on marriage

By MICHELLE RINDELS

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — As bans against gay marriage crumble and public opinion on the issue shifts rapidly, some Republicans are pushing the party to drop its opposition to same-sex unions, part of a broader campaign to get the GOP to appeal to younger voters by de-emphasizing social issues.

This month, the Nevada Republican party dropped statements on marriage from its party platform, making it the second state party in the nation to do so after Indiana's GOP quietly jettisoned its plank in 2012. A gay-rights group last week launched a \$1 million campaign to get the national party to remove from its platform a definition of marriage as between a man and a woman, while a group of major Republican donors is pushing for the GOP to become more supportive of gay rights across the board.

"These are people with sincerely held beliefs on both sides of the marriage issue, and that seems to be where the party is heading," said Jeff Cook-McCormac, an adviser to the American Unity Fund, which has been financed by wealthy donors such as hedge-fund billionaire Paul Singer to push the GOP to back gay rights. "The Republican Party in Nevada is doing something that I think we're going to see a lot more of, which is appealing to the things that unite Republican voters across the country — bread and butter issues."

But social conservatives warn that if the GOP abandons its core moral principles, it may also lose loyal voters.

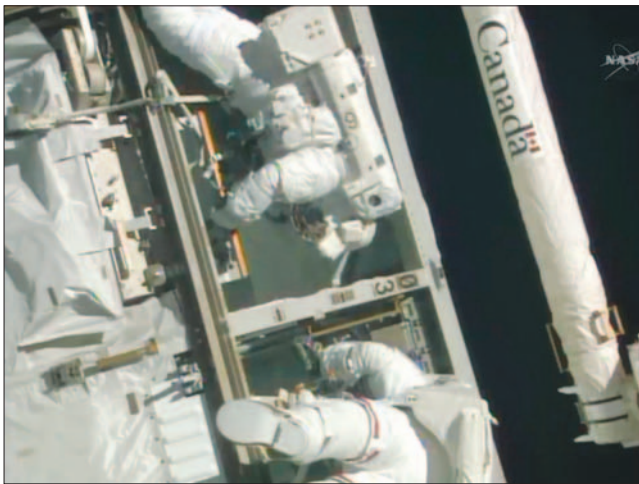
"It is very much a mistake for the GOP to step away from marriage," said Chris Plante, spokesman for the National Organization for Marriage. "The rank-and-file Republicans, mainstream Republicans, very much believe marriage is between a man and a woman."

"For the GOP to give in to elites, to promises of money, and to progressivism within the party is the wrong thing. It's bad politics. Marriage is a winning issue."

The greatest test will come in Nevada, a swing state where the state party also dropped its opposition to abortion during its biannual convention on April 12. The push arose from Clark County, home to libertine Las Vegas and three quarters of the state's population.

"Younger people believe they're getting screwed by the Democrats on fiscal issues, and screwed by Republicans on social issues," said Nick Phillips, the Clark County party's political director. "Take that away, and you've got a party you can get behind."

WORLD



NASA/AP

Tech support outside Space Station

In this image made from video, astronauts Steven Swanson, left, and Rick Mastracchio perform a spacewalk outside the International Space Station to replace a dead computer. The device is a critical backup outside the station that failed nearly two weeks ago. The prime computer has been working fine, but NASA wanted to install a fresh spare as soon as possible.

Material on shore analyzed in jet hunt

By ROD MCGUIRK
The Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia — Identified material that washed ashore in southwestern Australia is being examined for any link to the lost Malaysian plane, authorities said Wednesday.

Police secured the material, which washed ashore 6 miles east of Augusta in Western Australia state, the search coordination center said in a statement, without describing the material found. The Australian Transport Safety Bureau is examining photographs to assess whether further investigation is needed and if the material is relevant to Malaysia Airlines Flight 370.

Augusta is near Australia's southwestern tip, about 190 miles from Perth, where the search has been headquartered.

Meanwhile, Australia's prime minister said Wednesday that failure to find any clue in the most likely crash site of the lost jet would not spell the end of the search, as officials plan soon to bring in more powerful sonar equipment that can delve deeper

beneath the Indian Ocean.

The search coordination center said a robotic submarine, the U.S. Navy's Bluefin 21, had scanned more than 80 percent of the 120-square-mile seabed search zone off the Australian west coast, creating a three-dimensional sonar map of the ocean floor. Nothing of interest had been found.

The 2.8-mile-deep search area is a circle 12 miles wide around an area where sonar equipment picked up a signal on April 8 consistent with a plane's black boxes. But the batteries powering those signals are now dead.

Defense Minister David Johnston said Australia was consulting with Malaysia, China and the United States on the next phase of the search for the plane, which disappeared March 8. Details on the next phase are likely to be announced next week.

Johnston said more powerful towed side-scan commercial sonar equipment would probably be deployed, similar to the remote-controlled subs that found RMS Titanic 12,500 feet under the Atlantic Ocean in 1985.

Chemical weapons removal from Syria nearly done

By PATRICK J. MCDONNELL
Los Angeles Times

BEIRUT — With its latest deadline days away, Syria is close to eliminating its stockpile of chemical weapons, monitors said Tuesday, an improbable accomplishment in the midst of civil war that is likely to diminish further the possibility of international intervention.

After a slow start that prompted U.S. accusations of stalling, the government of President Bashar Assad has shipped almost 90 percent of its chemical weapons materials out of the country, raising hopes that it can finish the job by Sunday.

A United Nations plan that averted puni-

tive U.S. airstrikes last year sets June 30 as the deadline for all of Syria's chemical weapons materials to be destroyed. But the first and hardest task has been shipping it out of the country through the Mediterranean port of Latakia.

The destruction of the weapons would be one of the few positive developments in three years of war that has left tens of thousands of Syrians dead and forced millions from their homes. And it would allow the Obama administration to claim a success in its response to the use of chemical weapons in suburbs of Damascus, the Syrian capital, last August.

After moving warships into position off Syria's coast, President Barack Obama

announced he would seek congressional authorization for military action — and met stiff resistance. The deal to eliminate Syria's chemical weapons was brokered by Russia, an ally of Assad.

The Syrian leader may have concluded that he is able to continue making gains against rebel forces without resorting to chemical weapons. Military gains also have secured roads to the coast, making it easier to remove the arsenal.

"I honestly thought Assad would begin to drag his feet on this sooner, particularly when the Russians became involved in the Ukraine," said Joshua A. Sands, director of the Center for Middle East Studies at the University of Oklahoma. "But he didn't....

Obviously in this case he decided it was better to work with the Americans."

Syria did miss a couple of earlier deadlines, but declared it could remove the arsenal by April 27. The shipment Tuesday means that 86.5 percent of its toxic weapons material has been removed, according to a statement from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the Hague-based group overseeing the destruction of the stockpile.

That includes 88.7 percent of the 700 metric tons of the most toxic chemicals, among them mustard gas and precursor materials for the nerve agents sarin and VX.

Sherpas leave Mount Everest; some expeditions nix climbs

The Associated Press

KATMANDU, Nepal — Dozens of Sherpa guides packed their tents and left Mount Everest's base camp Wednesday, after the deaths of 16 of their colleagues in an avalanche exposed an undercurrent of resentment by Sherpas over pay, treatment and benefits.

With the entire climbing season increasingly thrown into doubt, the government quickly announced that top tourism officials would fly to base camp Thursday to negotiate with the Sherpas and encourage them to return to work.

But while Nepal's government has been heavily criticized for not doing enough for the Sherpas in

the wake of last week's disaster, the deadliest ever on the mountain, one top official blamed the walkout on "hooligans."

"It was crowd behavior — some hooligans were creating problems, but things are getting back to normal," said Sushil Ghimire, secretary of Nepal's Tourism Ministry.

While it was unclear just how many of the 400 or so Sherpas on the mountain had joined the walkout, a number of expedition companies have already canceled their climbs, and the lucrative climbing season is in disarray. Most attempts to reach Everest's summit are made in mid-May, when a brief window normally offers better weather.



NIRANJAN SHRESTHA/AP

Nirmidha Sherpa holds a portrait of her son Ang Kaji Sherpa, killed in an avalanche on Mount Everest, in Katmandu, Nepal, on Wednesday.

Hundreds of girls abducted in Nigeria remain missing

The Associated Press

CHIBOK, Nigeria — A week after Islamic extremists stormed a remote boarding school in northeast Nigeria, more than 200 girls and young women remain missing despite a "hot pursuit" by security forces and an independent search by desperate fathers who headed into a dangerous forest to find their daughters.

At Chibok, the scene of the attack, weeping parents cried Monday, begging the kidnappers to "have mercy on our daughters," and for the government to rescue them. "I have not seen my dear daughter, she is a good girl," cried Musa Muka, whose 17-year-old Martha was taken away. "We

pleaded with the government to help rescue her and her friends; we pray nothing happens to her."

Although at least 200 remain missing, dozens managed to escape, jumping from the back of an open truck after they were kidnapped in the pre-dawn hours of Tuesday last week or by running and hiding in the dense forest. The number who escaped depends on whom you speak to — 39, 43, maybe more than 50.

The abduction is a major embarrassment for Nigeria's military, which announced last week that security forces rescued all but eight of those kidnapped — and then was forced to retract the statement.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police items stolen during charity event

CA LOS ANGELES — Police said guns, badges and other items belonging to San Diego-area law enforcement personnel were stolen during a weekend charity football game in Los Angeles.

KCBS-TV reported that the items were taken Saturday from a locker room at Salesian High School while Los Angeles officers played against their San Diego colleagues. The theft was discovered at halftime.

Detectives said three handguns were taken along with jewelry, watches and badges.

There was no sign of forced entry, leading detectives to think the locker room door was mistakenly left open.

Hunters' friendship sealed by a kidney

KS TOPEKA — Two hunters brought together by a love of the outdoors formed a friendship leading one to donate a kidney to the other.

The two met with Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback on Tuesday to talk about their friendship, love of the outdoors and need for more people willing to be organ donors.

Rob Robinson, a firefighter from Starkville, Miss., happened to knock on Gil Alexander's door in northwest Kansas seeking permission to hunt. They developed a friendship that led to more hunting trips.

When Robinson learned Alexander needed a kidney transplant, he got tested and found he was a match. Alexander received the new organ in 2012.

The hunters have formed an outdoors foundation for wounded vets, children and others in need.

Plea change set for 1984 Cuba hijacker

FL MIAMI — A change-of-plea hearing has been set for an American who returned from Cuba decades after hijacking a jetliner to the communist island.

U.S. District Judge Robin Rosenbaum on Tuesday scheduled a May 2 hearing for William Potts, 57. Potts previously pleaded not guilty to air piracy charges, but said when he returned last year from Cuba that he wanted to return to the U.S. case.

The FBI says Potts claimed he had explosives when he hijacked a New York-to-Miami flight to Havana in 1984. He described himself then as a black militant using names such as "Lt. Spartacus."

Potts was arrested in Cuba and served 13 years in prison. He faces between 20 years and life in a U.S. prison and is seeking credit for the Cuban time served.

Firefighters rescue trapped Easter bunny

MA NORTHAMPTON — Members of the Northampton Fire Department hopped into action when they heard the Easter Bunny was trapped and in need of help.

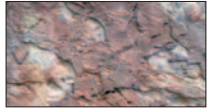
Four members of the depart-

THE CENSUS

10K

Edward Lodge ordered him to pay \$1,472 in restitution.

The number of pounds of sandstone stolen by Brian Kirkpatrick from Bureau of Land Management lands. Kirkpatrick, 46, was sentenced Monday in U.S. District Court in Boise, Idaho, to serve nine months in prison plus three years of supervised probation. Prosecutors said Kirkpatrick started stealing the sandstone in November 2012 and selling it commercially for landscape projects. Judge



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP

Loving lovely Lucey

Tiffany Torstenson, of Waukee, Iowa, kisses her dog, Lucey, after she was crowned the winner of the 35th annual Drake Relays Beautiful Bulldog Contest on Monday in Des Moines, Iowa. The pageant kicks off the Drake Relays festivities at Drake University, where a bulldog is the mascot.

ment rushed to a city home just after noon on Sunday when they got a call from a woman who said the bunny belonging to the little girl she was baby-sitting had escaped and hidden under the porch.

The Republican of Springfield reported that after unsuccessfully trying to coax the rabbit out of hiding and even stomping on the porch to try to scare it out, firefighter Jesse Rosnick crawled on his belly through the dirt in the small crawl space under the porch to grab it.

Deputy called hero after lake rescue

SD VOLGA — A Hamlin County deputy came to the rescue when a father and son fell into Lake Poinsett while trying to retrieve a football.

Dan Overbo and his 9-year-old son fell into the freezing water Monday morning when their canoe tipped about 60 yards from

shore. Overbo got his son into the canoe and tried to push the waterlogged boat to shore but wasn't making much progress.

A neighbor heard calls for help and alerted Deputy Jon Barthel, who ran to the scene, jumped into the water and pulled the father and son to shore.

"In my eyes, [Barthel] is a true hero and really a blessing," Overbo said.

Beach sweeps set to begin to remove debris

NJ POINT PLEASANT BEACH — A dog's jawbone, a rubber snake, dentures and a ceramic turkey were among the bizarre items plucked from the sands of New Jersey's beaches by volunteers last year.

The first round of this year's cleanups gets underway this weekend. Clean Ocean Action is holding its annual statewide spring beach sweeps on Saturday.

The goal is to remove as much

trash from the sand as possible. Some of it is left behind by careless beachgoers, and some washes up from overflowing sewage systems.

Life-sized longhorns disappear from town

ID GOODING — The Idaho Rodeo Hall of Fame is offering a \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of whoever stole two life-sized, wooden longhorn steers.

The Times-News reported that the wooden longhorns disappeared earlier this week while on display on Main Street in Gooding.

Spokeswoman Charmy LeaVeil said one of the longhorns was white and the other was painted blue and had a company logo on its left hip. She said a third longhorn was vandalized.

She said the longhorns are part of a project to raise money to

build the hall of fame as well as to mentor youth.

Council to review shop with bikini-clad baristas

CA CLOVIS — Officials in a Central California city have agreed to review the business license of a coffee shop that features baristas in bikinis.

The Bottom's Up coffee shop in Clovis has run into opposition from some residents. One of those residents, Candice Eslick, presented the City Council with a petition on Monday.

Eslick said she wants the shop to move its menu inside. The menu has racy names, and Eslick said she's seen young children reading it and taking photos next to the baristas.

The Fresno Bee reported that the council agreed to look into that issue and the shop's business license at its May 19 meeting.

From wire reports

FACES

Letterman gets visit from his successor, Colbert

By DAVID BAUDER
The Associated Press

Stephen Colbert, who will take over for a retiring David Letterman on CBS' "Late Show" next year, revealed Tuesday that he almost worked for Letterman—twice.

Colbert, the Comedy Central host, visited the "Late Show" for the first time since it was announced earlier this month that he will replace Letterman sometime next year. He was greeted warmly, with Letterman introducing him as "very talented" and "always entertaining," and the two men posed for the obligatory selfie.

It was a different visit in 1986, the year that Colbert, now 49, graduated from Northwestern. Letterman was working at NBC then, and Colbert said he accompanied his girlfriend to New York, where she was interviewing for an internship at Letterman's show.

In an odd turn of events, Colbert said he was hired instead of his soon-to-be ex-girlfriend. But he turned the job down.

"I did not take the internship because you do not pay people,"

he said. "The next job I'm taking, that pays, right? Because I've already signed."

Eleven years later, Colbert said he and his writing partner submitted a packet of material to the "Late Show," hoping to join the writing staff. He said no one from the show got back to them for four months, and by then Comedy Central had already hired Colbert to do the show "Strangers with Candy."

Colbert pulled out a card and read the Top Ten list that he and his partner had submitted 14 years ago to try to get the job. The list, written around the holidays, was "Top Ten Cocktails for Santa."

"I Late Show" producers inserted the traditional prepared intro that runs before Letterman's Top Ten list every night, for which the current host feigned outrage.

"He doesn't have the job yet," he said. "Don't let the door hit you in the ass."

Colbert said that "obviously, I'm thrilled" to have the job. The "Colbert Report" on Comedy Central will continue through the end of this year. The date of Letterman's exit and Colbert's debut on the "Late Show" hasn't been set.



CBS/AP

Stephen Colbert, left, takes a selfie with host David Letterman while on the "Late Show with David Letterman" on Tuesday. This was Colbert's first visit to the show since CBS announced that he will succeed Letterman as host. Letterman is set to retire sometime in 2015.



PEOPLE/AP

“It was exciting and just a major, major compliment. I was happy for all the girls who would see me on it and feel a little more seen.”

Lupita Nyong'o
actress, 31, on being named
"World's Most Beautiful"
for 2014 by People magazine

Milsap, Wiseman among Country Hall inductees

The Associated Press

Ronnie Milsap, Mac Wiseman and the late Hank Cochran are the newest members of the Country Music Hall of Fame.

The 2014 induction class was introduced by Kix Brooks during a news conference Tuesday at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville. The trio will be inducted later this year.

Wiseman was an original member of Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs' Foggy Mountain Boys, made his Grand Ole Opry debut with Bill Monroe, was an executive with the influential Nashville independent label Dot Records and a founding board member of the Country Music Association.

Milsap, inducted in the modern era category, was an established talent by the time he arrived in Nashville in the 1970s. He'd played in J.J. Cale's band in the early 1960s and moved to Memphis, Tenn., to work with Chips Moman at the hit-making American Studios, before accepting an invitation to go to Nashville to record for RCA Records. He won seven Grammy Awards, the CMA's entertainer of the year award in 1977 and four album of the year awards between 1975 and 1986.

"They developed me as an act that when you heard me on the radio, people knew who it was," Milsap said of RCA's Jerry Bradley and Joe Galante. "When you turn on the radio and hear Merle Haggard, you know who it is. When you hear Chubby Checker, you know who it is. When you heard Ronnie Milsap, that's it. New guy over at RCA."

Cochran, who is being inducted in the songwriting category, probably secured his place in country music history when he got Willie Nelson a songwriting job at Pamper Music and forgoing his own raise. He wrote the Ray Price standard "Make the World Go Away" and Patsy Cline's song, "I Fall to Pieces" (following Nelson's own "Crazy"), among many others. He died in 2010.

Bieber sorry for war shrine visit

Justin Bieber apologized Wednesday to those he offended by visiting Japan's Yasu-

kuni war shrine in Tokyo this week, saying he was misled to see it as only a place of prayer.

The Shinto shrine honors 2.5 million war dead, including 14 convicted war criminals. China and South Korea in particular see Yasukuni as a symbol of Japan's past militarism and see visits to it as a lack of understanding or remorse over wartime history.

Two photos posted Tuesday and later removed from Instagram showed Bieber praying outdoors at the shrine and standing beside a Shinto priest. In an Instagram post Wednesday, Bieber said he asked his driver to stop when he saw the shrine. "I was misled to think the Shrines were only a place of prayer. To anyone I have offended I am extremely sorry," the post said.

Also, a trial for Bieber on driving under the influence and other charges was delayed Wednesday until July after his lawyers asked for more time to examine evidence and discuss whether to accept a possible plea deal.

Chris Brown's trial delayed

Chris Brown's trial on an assault charge has been delayed for months after prosecutors declined to grant immunity to the singer's bodyguard, whom defense lawyers call a key witness.

Wednesday had been set as the start of Brown's trial. But prosecutors told a judge they won't grant immunity to bodyguard Christopher Hollys, who was convicted of assault in the incident. Hollys had said that without immunity, he wouldn't testify until he has finished appealing his case. That could take months, and Brown's trial might wait until then. A judge scheduled a June status hearing in Brown's case.

Hollys and Brown were arrested in October after a man accused them of punching him. Hollys told D.C. police he, not Brown, punched the man.

Discovery to chronicle avalanche

With its dreams of televising a daredevil's attempt to jump off Mount Everest over, the

Discovery network said Tuesday it will instead make a documentary on last week's avalanche that killed more than a dozen mountaineers.

Discovery President Eileen O'Neill said the network hopes to air the film within the next few weeks. Discovery will encourage viewers to donate to a relief fund for families of the Sherpa guides killed in Everest's most deadly disaster.

"It gives us a sense of responsibility because we are there and have the resources and wherewithal to tell the story," O'Neill said. "We want to have the right tribute."

Several of the Sherpas killed were helping prepare for American Joby Ogwyn's planned jump from the summit in a wingsuit. Discovery planned to show the stunt on television worldwide on May 1.

Other news

■ Drew Barrymore, 39, and her husband, Will Kopelman, 36, have welcomed a second daughter. Barrymore's rep, Chris Miller, confirms Frankie Barrymore Kopelman was born Tuesday.

■ After visiting New York last year, the MTV Video Music Awards announced Wednesday that the show is returning to the West Coast this summer to become the first major awards ceremony broadcast from the storied Forum in Inglewood, Calif. The 2014 VMAs will air Sunday, Aug. 24.

■ Eminem and Outkast are headlining the Austin City Limits Music Festival in October in Austin, Texas. Pearl Jam, Skrillex, Beck and Lorde will also take the stage at the 13th annual festival in Zilker Park over two weekends, kicking off Oct. 3 and Oct. 10.

■ A former Fox television executive on Tuesday denied allegations that he sexually abused a teen through a sex ring involving underage children. Louise Ann Fernandez, a lawyer for Garth Ancier, said all the allegations made by Michael Egan III in a federal lawsuit filed in Hawaii are untrue. Fernandez said Ancier has never visited the estate in Hawaii where Egan claims he was molested.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Job market better for college grads

BY PAUL WISEMAN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With college commencement ceremonies nearing, the government is offering a modest dose of good news for graduating seniors: The job market is brightening for new grads.

But finding work — especially a dream job — remains tough for those just graduating. Many are settling for jobs outside their fields of study or for less pay than they'd expected or hoped for.

The Labor Department on Tuesday said the unemployment rate for 2013 college graduates — defined as those ages 20 to 29 who earned a four-year or advanced degree — was 10.9 percent. That was down from 13.3 percent in 2012 and was the lowest since 7.7 percent in 2007. The drop reflects

the steady recovery in overall U.S. economic growth and hiring.

But unemployment for recent grads was still higher than the 9.6 percent rate for all Americans ages 20 to 29 last October, when the government collected the numbers.

Over time, though, Americans who have college degrees are still far more likely to find employment and to earn more than those who don't. And while opportunities for new college grads remain too few, they're increasing.

Last year's female graduates fared better than men: 9 percent were unemployed as of October last year, compared with 13.7 percent of men. Analysts note that the economy has been generating jobs in many low-wage fields — such as retail and hotels — that disproportionately employ women.

The Labor Department reports



65

The job market for new college graduates is brightening but remains weaker than before the Great Recession began.

MARKET WATCH

April 22, 2014

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Dow Jones industrials | +65.12 16,514.37 |
| Nasdaq composite | +39.91 4,161.46 |
| Standard & Poor's 500 | +7.66 1,879.55 |
| Russell 2000 | +13.30 1,155.61 |

EXCHANGE RATES

| Military rates | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Euro costs (April 24) | \$1.194 |
| U.S. dollar (April 24) | €0.749 |
| British pound (April 24) | \$1.72 |
| Japanese yen (April 24) | \$0.007 |
| South Korean won (April 24) | \$1.012 |
| Commercial rates | |
| Bahrain (Dinar) | 0.3771 |
| British pound | \$1.6795 |
| Canada (Dollar) | 1.1042 |
| China (Yuan) | 6.2378 |
| Denmark (Krone) | 5.9392 |
| Egypt (Pound) | 6.3976 |
| U.S. dollar | \$1.3835/0.7238 |
| Hong Kong (Dollar) | 7.7532 |
| Hungary (Forint) | 222.46 |
| Israel (Shekel) | 3.4836 |
| Japan (Yen) | 102.29 |
| Kuwait (Dinar) | 0.2812 |
| Norway (Krone) | 5.9883 |
| Philippines (Peso) | 44.60 |
| Poland (Zloty) | 3.0065 |
| Saudi Arabia (Riyal) | 3.7506 |
| Singapore (Dollar) | 1.2579 |
| South Korea (Won) | 1.0425 |
| Switzerland (Franc) | 0.8815 |
| Thailand (Baht) | 32.35 |

Turkey (Lira) 2.1505
(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

| | |
|---------------------------------|------|
| Prime rate | 3.25 |
| Discount rate | 0.75 |
| Federal funds market rate | 0.10 |
| 3-month bill | 0.04 |
| 20-year bond | 3.50 |

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Thursday's US temperatures

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|----|----|-------|------------------|----|-------|------------|------------------|----|------|------------|----------------|----|-------|-----------|-----------------|----|-----|------------|-------------------|----|------|-------|
| City | Hi | Lo | Wthr | Chattanooga | 45 | PCldy | Fort Wayne | 67 | 42 | Cldy | Louisville | 79 | 48 | PCldy | Pocatello | 63 | 39 | Ctr | Shreveport | 82 | 62 | Cldy | |
| Abilene, Texas | 85 | 63 | Ctr | Chenayenne | 61 | 30 | Ctr | Fresno | 80 | 51 | PCldy | Quibouk | 79 | 51 | Ctr | Portland, Maine | 56 | 37 | Ctr | Sious City | 71 | 50 | Ctr |
| Akron, Ohio | 65 | 43 | PCldy | Chicago | 62 | 40 | Rain | Goodland | 69 | 38 | Ctr | Macon | 82 | 49 | Rain | Portland, Ore. | 57 | 48 | Rain | Sious Falls | 67 | 45 | Ctr |
| Albany, N.Y. | 65 | 43 | Ctr | Albany, N.Y. | 63 | 41 | Ctr | Grand Junction | 68 | 38 | PCldy | Grand Rapids | 73 | 43 | Ctr | Portland, Me. | 57 | 48 | Rain | South Bend | 66 | 45 | Ctr |
| Albuquerque | 74 | 45 | PCldy | Cleveland | 61 | 40 | Ctr | Grand Rapids | 64 | 42 | Ctr | Medford | 61 | 49 | Rain | Pueblo | 71 | 36 | Ctr | Spokane | 54 | 39 | Rain |
| Allentown, Pa. | 62 | 32 | Ctr | Colorado Springs | 60 | 32 | PCldy | Great Falls | 61 | 34 | Ctr | Memphis | 81 | 55 | PCldy | Rehoboth Beach | 67 | 42 | Ctr | Springfield, Ill. | 67 | 45 | Ctr |
| Altoona, Pa. | 62 | 32 | Ctr | Columbus, Ga. | 57 | 27 | Ctr | Greensboro, N.C. | 70 | 38 | PCldy | Midland-Odessa | 83 | 55 | PCldy | Reno | 73 | 42 | Ctr | Springfield, Mo. | 67 | 45 | Ctr |
| Anchorage | 54 | 34 | PCldy | Columbus, Ga. | 57 | 27 | Ctr | Greensboro, N.C. | 70 | 38 | PCldy | Midland-Odessa | 83 | 55 | PCldy | Reno | 73 | 42 | Ctr | Syracuse | 54 | 34 | Ctr |
| Ann Arbor, Mich. | 65 | 43 | Ctr | Concord, N.H. | 56 | 32 | Ctr | Hartford | 67 | 38 | Ctr | Honolulu | 81 | 55 | PCldy | Rosemond | 69 | 38 | PCldy | Tallahassee | 64 | 44 | Ctr |
| Atlanta | 74 | 45 | Ctr | Concord, N.H. | 56 | 32 | Ctr | Hartford | 67 | 38 | Ctr | Mpls-St. Paul | 58 | 44 | Rain | Roanoke | 69 | 38 | PCldy | Tampa | 84 | 68 | PCldy |
| Atlantic City | 64 | 37 | Ctr | Corpus Christi | 65 | 49 | Ctr | Helena | 58 | 35 | Ctr | Missoula | 57 | 32 | Rain | Rochester | 56 | 31 | Ctr | Toledo | 62 | 39 | Ctr |
| Astoria, Ore. | 65 | 43 | Ctr | Dayton | 61 | 39 | Ctr | Dayton | 61 | 39 | Ctr | Missoula | 57 | 32 | Rain | Rochester | 56 | 31 | Ctr | Toledo | 62 | 39 | Ctr |
| Baltimore | 66 | 37 | PCldy | Dayton | 61 | 39 | Ctr | Houston | 83 | 65 | Cldy | Montgomery | 83 | 52 | Ctr | Sacramento | 73 | 50 | Ctr | Tucson | 87 | 54 | Ctr |
| Baton Rouge | 68 | 46 | Ctr | Denver | 68 | 42 | Ctr | Houston | 83 | 65 | Cldy | Montgomery | 83 | 52 | Ctr | Sacramento | 73 | 50 | Ctr | Tucson | 87 | 54 | Ctr |
| Billings | 60 | 37 | Ctr | Denver | 68 | 42 | Ctr | Indianapolis | 71 | 46 | Cldy | New Orleans | 80 | 64 | PCldy | St. Petersburg | 83 | 70 | PCldy | Tupelo | 82 | 49 | Ctr |
| Birmingham | 81 | 49 | Ctr | Des Moines | 66 | 52 | Rain | Jackson, Miss. | 58 | 35 | PCldy | New York City | 63 | 37 | Ctr | St. Thomas | 86 | 78 | PCldy | Waco | 83 | 64 | Ctr |
| Birmingham | 81 | 49 | Ctr | Des Moines | 66 | 52 | Rain | Jackson, Miss. | 58 | 35 | PCldy | New York City | 63 | 37 | Ctr | St. Thomas | 86 | 78 | PCldy | Waco | 83 | 64 | Ctr |
| Birmingham | 81 | 49 | Ctr | Des Moines | 66 | 52 | Rain | Jackson, Miss. | 58 | 35 | PCldy | New York City | 63 | 37 | Ctr | St. Thomas | 86 | 78 | PCldy | Waco | 83 | 64 | Ctr |
| Birmingham | 81 | 49 | Ctr | Des Moines | 66 | 52 | Rain | Jackson, Miss. | 58 | 35 | PCldy | New York City | 63 | 37 | Ctr | St. Thomas | 86 | 78 | PCldy | Waco | 83 | 64 | Ctr |
| Birmingham | 81 | 49 | Ctr | Des Moines | 66 | 52 | Rain | Jackson, Miss. | 58 | 35 | PCldy | New York City | 63 | 37 | Ctr | St. Thomas | 86 | 78 | PCldy | Waco | 83 | 64 | Ctr |
| Birmingham | 81 | 49 | Ctr | Des Moines | 66 | 52 | Rain | Jackson, Miss. | 58 | 35 | PCldy | New York City | 63 | 37 | Ctr | St. Thomas | 86 | 78 | PCldy | Waco | 83 | 64 | Ctr |
| Birmingham | 81 | 49 | Ctr | Des Moines | 66 | 52 | Rain | Jackson, Miss. | 58 | 35 | PCldy | New York City | 63 | 37 | Ctr | St. Thomas | 86 | 78 | PCldy | Waco | 83 | 64 | Ctr |
| Birmingham | 81 | 49 | Ctr | Des Moines | 66 | 52 | Rain | Jackson, Miss. | 58 | 35 | PCldy | New York City | 63 | 37 | Ctr | St. Thomas | 86 | 78 | PCldy | Waco | 83 | 64 | Ctr |
| Birmingham | 81 | 49 | Ctr | Des Moines | 66 | 52 | Rain | Jackson, Miss. | 58 | 35 | PCldy | New York City | 63 | 37 | Ctr | St. Thomas | 86 | 78 | PCldy | Waco | 83 | 64 | Ctr |
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| Birmingham | 81 | 49 | Ctr | Des Moines | 66 | 52 | Rain | Jackson, Miss. | 58 | 35 | PCldy | New York City | 63 | 37 | Ctr | St. Thomas | 86 | 78 | PCldy | Waco | 83 | 64 | Ctr |
| Birmingham | 81 | 49 | Ctr | Des Moines | 66 | 52 | Rain | Jackson, Miss. | 58 | 35 | PCldy | New York City | 63 | 37 | Ctr | St. Thomas | 86 | 78 | PCldy | Waco | 83 | 64 | Ctr |
| Birmingham | 81 | 49 | Ctr | Des Moines | 66 | 52 | Rain | Jackson, Miss. | 58 | 35 | PCldy | New York City | 63 | 37 | Ctr | St. Thomas | 86 | 78 | PCldy | Waco | 83 | 64 | Ctr |
| Birmingham | 81 | 49 | Ctr | Des Moines | 66 | 52 | Rain | Jackson, Miss. | 58 | 35 | PCldy | New York City | 63 | 37 | Ctr | St. Thomas | 86 | 78 | PCldy | Waco | 83 | 64 | Ctr |
| Birmingham | 81 | 49 | Ctr | Des Moines | 66 | 52 | Rain | Jackson, Miss. | 58 | 35 | PCldy | New York City | 63 | 37 | Ctr | St. Thomas | 86 | 78 | PCldy | Waco | 83 | 64 | Ctr |
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| Birmingham | 81 | 49 | Ctr | Des Moines | 66 | 52 | Rain | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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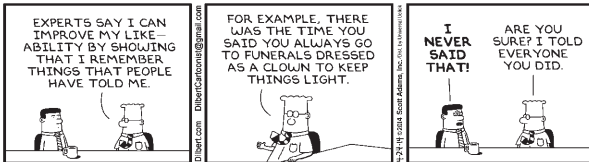
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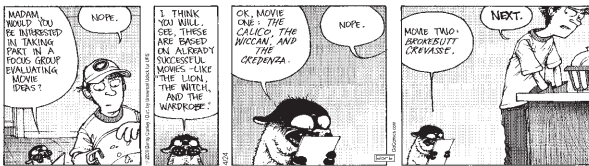
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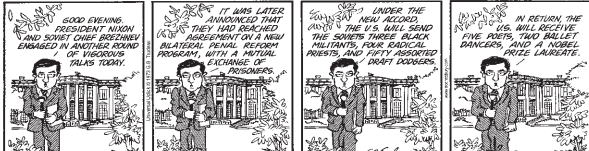
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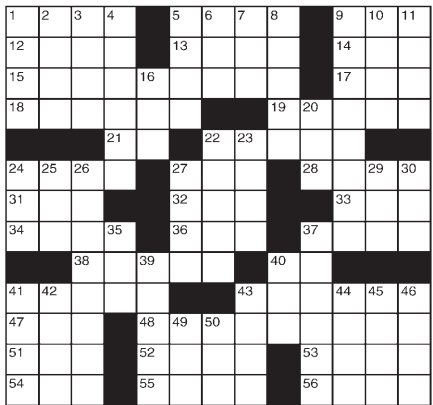
Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Elderly
- 5 — accomplish
- 9 Corn eater's castoff
- 12 Arrive
- 13 Partner
- 14 Honest politician?
- 15 Doctor's service, of yore
- 17 Falsehood
- 18 Store grain
- 19 Pompeo or Page
- 21 Nines' home (Abbr.)
- 22 Ersatz chocolate
- 24 Arrears
- 27 On the — vive
- 28 Spillbals
- 31 In vitro items
- 32 Web address
- 33 Bill's partner
- 34 Mexican entree
- 36 Eggs' counterparts
- 37 Distort
- 38 Entanglements
- 40 Yes, in Russian
- 41 Tender
- 43 Preacher's place
- 47 Mainlander's memento
- 48 "Backdraft" building
- 51 Needlefish
- 52 Send forth
- 53 — podrida
- 54 Exist

DOWN

- 1 Rule the run
- 2 Hired hoodlum
- 3 Flightless flock
- 4 Stop
- 5 Confront
- 6 Chicken-king link
- 7 Misfortune
- 8 Tenth president
- 9 Auditor's hope
- 10 Theater trophy
- 11 "Where have you —?"
- 16 Sprite
- 20 Depressed
- 22 They get in the whey
- 23 Sickness
- 24 Morse morse
- 25 Actress Longoria
- 26 Have exactly the wrong effect
- 27 Resign
- 29 One female animal ...
- 30 ... and another
- 35 Inseparable
- 37 Bar
- 39 Gluck's "— ed Euridice"
- 40 "Ya think?"
- 41 Gymnast Korbut
- 42 Dread
- 43 Veterinarian's clientele
- 44 Whine
- 45 Capri or Wight
- 46 Rip
- 49 "— Little Tialet"
- 50 Fabric dye brand

Answer to Previous Puzzle



4-24

CRYPTOQUIP

RMGAX SOXWX'R GES XGEYCO
MKKYHMGPSMEG SE PVPVKJ
HJ HPRAPWP, M RYVVERX

M'KK YRX SOX KPRO-KMCO.S.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: the NAVAL CAPSIN IS GUIDING A SUBMARINE NEAR THE SEA'S BOTTOM. I CALL THAT DEEP-SEA DRIVING.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals L



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NHL PLAYOFFS



GRAHAM HUGHES, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Montreal's Max Pacioretty, right, slides in on Tampa Bay goaltender Kristers Gudlevskis, left, Tuesday during the second period of Game 4 of the teams' first-round playoff series in Montreal.

Roundup

Sweep of Lightning puts Canadiens in 2nd round

The Associated Press

MONTREAL — The Montreal Canadiens swept their way into the second round of the NHL playoffs, and now look forward to some rest.

The first team to advance, Montreal won the best-of-seven series with Tampa Bay 4-0 thanks to a 4-3 victory Tuesday night, and now faces a long wait for the Eastern Conference semifinal against the winner of the Boston-Detroit series.

Max Pacioretty got the winning goal with 43 seconds remaining on a power play. Pacioretty, who played for the United States at the Olympics in February, is glad to get some time off.

"Going to Sochi and not having much time off, I feel this is going to be a good chance for me to get in the weight room and find some strength for Round 2," he said.

"We have to take advantage of it and try to stay sharp as a group at the same time," added Canadiens captain Gionta.

Pacioretty was in front of the net to watch Thomas Vanek's rebound past Kristers Gudlevskis for the winner.

"It's a great feeling," said Pacioretty, a 39-goal scorer in the regular season who got his first of the series. "I've been in a bit of a drought since the end of the year. I've been getting opportunities and missing my chances. But you wait for that bounce and I got it."

It was Montreal's first sweep since beating Buffalo in four games in 1993 en route to the last of its record 24 Stanley Cups.

The Canadiens built a 3-1 lead on goals from Daniel Briere, Lars Eller and Brendan Gallagher.

Ondrej Palat had a goal and an assist for Tampa Bay. Victor Hedman pulled the Lightning within one goal three minutes into the third period, and Tyler Johnson tied the game three minutes later.

Sharks 4, Kings 3 (OT): Patrick Marleau scored on a backhand 6:20 into overtime, and visiting San Jose moved to the brink of the second round with a victory over Los Angeles to take a 3-0 first-round series lead.

Rookie Tomas Hertl tied it with 10:43 left in regulation for the Sharks, who survived a much-

improved effort from the bitter California rivals after two blowout wins in San Jose.

Marleau ended it for the Sharks with his third goal of the series. His shot banked off Kings defenseman Slava Voynov's stick on its way past Jonathan Quick, who made 36 saves in his third straight loss.

Antti Niemi stopped 28 shots for the Sharks.

Game 4 is Thursday in Los Angeles.

The Sharks have won five straight overtime playoff games and 10 of their last 11, with Marleau scoring four game-winning goals during that remarkable stretch.

Los Angeles has slipped to the brink of first-round elimination just two years after its Stanley Cup title run.

Bruins 3, Red Wings 0: Tuukka Rask finished with a 23-save shutout to give visiting Boston a 2-1 playoff series lead.

Dougie Hamilton and Jordan Caron scored in the first period, and Patrice Bergeron added an empty net goal late in the game. The Presidents' Trophy-winning Bruins are ahead for the first time in the opening-round series. And, it seems like a commanding lead the way Boston has played the past two games.

Detroit has to win Game 4 on Thursday night to avoid facing elimination when the series shifts back to Boston.

Jimmy Howard made 31 saves for the Red Wings, who needed him to make what appeared to be a routine stop midway through the first period on the first goal. He couldn't.

Rangers 4, Flyers 1: Derek Stepan, Martin St. Louis, Dan Girardi and Dan Carcillo all scored, and Henrik Lundqvist stopped 31 shots to give visiting New York a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven series.

Lundqvist was backed by a defense that delivered with a flurry of blocked shots to stymie the Flyers. The Rangers took an early 2-0 lead and that was enough of a cushion for a team that led the Eastern Conference with 25 road victories.

Mark Streit scored for the Flyers.

Ray Emery struggled in net in his third straight start of the postseason for Steve Mason, and was lifted late in the third period.

Game 4 is Friday in Philadelphia.

Scoreboard

First round

| | |
|---|--|
| (Best-of-seven) (x=if necessary) | |
| EASTERN CONFERENCE | |
| Boston 2, Detroit 1 | |
| Detroit 1, Boston 0 | |
| Boston 4, Detroit 1 | |
| Tuesday: Boston 3, Detroit 0 | |
| Thursday: at Detroit | |
| Saturday: at Boston | |
| x-Monday: at Tampa Bay 0 | |
| x-Wednesday, April 30: at Boston | |
| Montreal 4, Tampa Bay 0 | |
| Montreal 5, Tampa Bay 4, OT | |
| Montreal 4, Tampa Bay 1 | |
| Montreal 3, Tampa Bay 2 | |
| Tuesday: Montreal 4, Tampa Bay 3 | |
| Pittsburgh 2, Columbus 1 | |
| Pittsburgh 4, Columbus 3 | |
| Columbus 4, Pittsburgh 3, 2OT | |
| Pittsburgh 4, Columbus 3 | |
| Wednesday: at Pittsburgh | |
| Saturday: at Pittsburgh | |
| x-Monday: at Columbus | |
| x-Wednesday, April 30: at Pittsburgh | |
| N.Y. Rangers 2, Philadelphia 1 | |
| N.Y. Rangers 4, Philadelphia 1 | |
| Philadelphia 4, N.Y. Rangers 2 | |
| Tuesday: N.Y. Rangers 4, Philadelphia 1 | |
| Friday: at Philadelphia | |
| Sunday: at N.Y. Rangers | |
| x-Tuesday, April 29: at Philadelphia | |
| x-Wednesday, April 30: at N.Y. Rangers | |

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| WESTERN CONFERENCE | |
| Colorado 2, Minnesota 1 | |
| Colorado 5, Minnesota 4, OT | |
| Colorado 4, Minnesota 2 | |
| Minnesota 1, Colorado 0, OT | |
| Thursday: at Minnesota | |
| Saturday: at Colorado | |
| x-Monday: at Colorado | |
| x-Wednesday, April 30: at Colorado | |
| St. Louis 2, Chicago 1 | |
| St. Louis 4, Chicago 3 | |
| St. Louis 4, Chicago 2, 1OT | |
| Chicago 2, St. Louis 0 | |
| Wednesday: at Chicago | |
| Friday: at St. Louis | |
| x-Sunday: at Chicago | |
| x-Tuesday, April 29: at St. Louis | |
| Anaheim 2, Dallas 1 | |
| Anaheim 4, Dallas 3 | |
| Anaheim 3, Dallas 3 | |
| Dallas 3, Anaheim 0 | |
| Wednesday: at Dallas | |
| Friday: at Anaheim | |
| x-Sunday: at Dallas | |
| x-Tuesday, April 29: at Anaheim | |
| San Jose 3, Los Angeles 0 | |
| San Jose 6, Los Angeles 3 | |
| San Jose 7, Los Angeles 2 | |
| OT Thursday: at Los Angeles | |
| San Jose 4, Los Angeles 3 | |
| x-Monday: at Los Angeles | |
| x-Wednesday, April 30: at San Jose | |

Tuesday

| | |
|--|--|
| Bruins 3, Red Wings 0 | |
| Detroit 2, Boston 0 | |
| Detroit 0, Boston 0-1-3 | |
| 0 0 0-0-0 | |
| First Period—1, Boston, Hamilton 1 (R-Smith, Bergeron), 2:00 (pp), 2, Boston, Caron 1 (Thornton, K.Miller), 15:48. | |
| Shots on Goal—3, Boston, Bergeron 1, 18:01 (en). | |
| Shots on Goal—Boston 11-12-11-34. | |
| Power-play opportunities—Boston 1 of 3; Detroit 0 of 3. | |
| Goals—Boston, Rask 2-1-0 (23 shots-saves), Detroit, Howard 1-2-0 (33-31). | |
| A—20,066 (20,066). T—2:27. | |

Canadiens 4, Lightning 3

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Tampa Bay | 0 1 2-3 |
| Montreal | 2 1 1-4 |
| First Period—1, Montreal, Briere 1 (Weise, Bournival), 2:24. 2, Montreal, Elie 2 (Gionta), 15:21. | |
| Second Period—3, Tampa Bay, Palat 2, 6:32 (sh), 4, Montreal, Gallagher 3 (Plekanec, Gorges), 5:42. | |
| Third Period—5, Tampa Bay, Hedman 1 (Palat, Kostika), 5:25. 6, Tampa Bay, Johnson 1 (Brown, Paquette), 6:31. 7, Montreal, Pacioretty 1 (Vaneek, Subban), 19:17 (pp). | |
| Shots on Goal—Tampa Bay 6-7-10-23. | |
| Montreal 15-14-8-37. | |
| Power-play opportunities—Tampa Bay 0 of 1; Montreal 3 of 5. | |
| Goals—Tampa Bay, Lindback (20 shots-17 saves), Gudlevskis 0-1-0 (5-42 second, 17-16), Montreal, Price 4-0-0 (23-20). | |
| A—21,273 (21,273). T—2:31. | |

Rangers 4, Flyers 1

| | |
|--|----------------|
| N.Y. Rangers | 2 1 1-4 |
| Philadelphia | 1 0 0-1 |
| First Period—1, N.Y. Rangers, Stepan 2 (Nash, St. Louis), 3:54. 2, N.Y. Rangers, St. Louis 2 (Girardi, Nash), 10:24. 3, Philadelphia, Stroit 1 (Voracek, Giroux), 17:18. | |
| Second Period—4, N.Y. Rangers, Girardi 1 (Richards, Hagelin), 5:17. | |
| Third Period—5, N.Y. Rangers, Carcillo 1 (Boyle), 10:53. | |
| Shots on Goal—N.Y. Rangers 13-4-6-23. Philadelphia 12-13-7-32. | |
| Goals—N.Y. Rangers, Lundqvist 2-1-0 (23 shots-31 saves), Philadelphia, Emery 1-2-0 (20-16), Mason (12-45 third, 3-3). | |
| A—20,096 (19,541). T—2:32. | |

Sharks 4, Kings 3 (OT)

| | |
|---|----------------|
| San Jose | 0 1 1-3 |
| Los Angeles | 0 2 0-3 |
| First Period—1, San Jose, Burns 2 (Thornton, Boyle), 3:16 (pp). | |
| Second Period—2, Los Angeles, Stoll 1 (Toffoli, Dougherty), 4:48 (pp), 3, Los Angeles, Gaborik 1, 7:59. 4, San Jose, Nieto 1 (Demers, Marleau), 9:19. | |
| Third Period—5, Los Angeles, Carter 1 (Kopitar, Dougherty), 5:1 (pp), 6, San Jose, Hertl 2 (Wingels, Vlasik), 5:17. | |
| First Overtime—7, San Jose, Marleau 3 (Hannan), 6:20. | |
| Shots on Goal—San Jose 7-9-23-1-40. Los Angeles 5-10-8-5-31. | |
| Goals—San Jose, Niemi 3-0-0 (31 shots-28 saves), Los Angeles, Quick 0-3-0 (40-36). | |
| A—18,390 (18,118). T—3:00. | |

Playoff scoring leaders

| Through April 22 | GP | G | A | PTS |
|------------------------|----|---|---|-----|
| Paul Stastny, Col. | 3 | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| Nathan MacKinnon, Col. | 3 | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| Paul Martin, PIT | 4 | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| Patrick Marleau, SJ | 4 | 3 | 5 | 6 |
| Brendan Gallagher, Mon | 4 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Martin St. Louis, NYR | 4 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Lars Eller, Mon | 4 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| P.K. Subban, Mon | 4 | 0 | 5 | 5 |

Calendar

May 25-31 — NHL combine, Toronto.
June 18 — Last possible day for Stanley Cup finals.



MARC J. TERRILL/AP

Los Angeles goalie Jonathan Quick, right, is scattered on by San Jose right wing Brent Burns as center Joe Pavelski, left, watches Tuesday during the first period of Game 3 of the teams' first-round playoff series in Los Angeles. San Jose won the game 4-3 in overtime.

SPORTS BRIEFS

NFL expects top 30 prospects to attend draft

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NFL said 30 top prospects, including Texas A&M quarterback Johnny Manziel and South Carolina defensive end Jadeveon Clowney, will attend the draft next month in New York.

Among other players scheduled to appear at Radio City Music Hall include Louisville quarterback Teddy Bridgewater, Clemson wide receiver Sammy Watkins and Buffalo linebacker Khalil Mack.

The prospects are expected to be selected in the first three rounds.

The first round will be Thursday, May 8, with the second and third rounds the next day.

In other NFL news: ■ Washington Redskins owner Dan Snyder said it's time for people to "focus on reality" concerning Native American matters instead of criticizing the NFL team's nickname.

"We understand the issues out there, and we're not an issue," Snyder said on Tuesday. "The real issues are real-life issues, real-life needs, and I think it's time that people focus on reality."

Challenged by those who consider the name "Redskins" offensive, Snyder and his staff recently traveled to Native American reservations and last month established a foundation to assist American Indian tribes. He had declined requests to answer questions about the foundation until Tuesday.

■ The Pittsburgh Steelers have picked up the 2015 option on defensive end Cam Heyward.

The decision, announced Tuesday, means Heyward will have to wait two more years before becoming a free agent. Heyward is coming off a breakout season in which he finished with a career-high five sacks while making 13 starts.

Moore has ligament replacement surgery

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Tampa Bay Rays left-hander Matt Moore has undergone elbow ligament replacement surgery and could be sidelined 12 to 15 months.

The Rays announced Tuesday that the surgery was performed by Dr. James Andrews on the 24-year-old Moore, who made the AL All-Star team last year.

Moore left his start on April 7 in Kansas City because of elbow soreness, and was placed on the 15-day disabled list the following day.

In other baseball news:

■ The Chicago White Sox believe Chris Sale has a strained muscle in his throwing arm and the ace left-hander was officially put on the 15-day disabled list Tuesday. There does not appear to be any ligament damage.

Matt Moore, Kris Medlen, Patrick Corbin and David Hernandez are among the pitchers who have been dealing with significant elbow problems this year, and

Sale doesn't appear to be joining that hard-luck group after undergoing an MRI.

■ The Oakland Athletics have rejected a deal to play at their ballpark for the foreseeable future, saying the 10-year lease extension offer doesn't meet all their requirements.

The Oakland Tribune reports the team's rejection came just an hour after the joint board that runs the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum complex announced the extension proposal.

Baylor sophomore Austin to enter NBA Draft early

WACO, Texas — Baylor sophomore center Isaiah Austin has decided to forgo the remainder of his collegiate eligibility to enter

the NBA Draft.

The 7-foot-1 Austin, who has a prosthetic right eye, averaged 12.1 points, 6.9 rebounds and 2.4 blocks in his 73 games the past two seasons with the Bears.

Bears coach Scott Drew made the announcement Tuesday, five days before the early entry deadline and just more than a month after Baylor went the NCAA Sweet 16.

Tennessee RB Hill plans to transfer

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee running back Alden Hill has decided to transfer to another school.

Hill tweeted a link to a post on his Instagram account Tuesday in which he said he had "decided

to move on for my best interest and find a new home."

Although Hill's Twitter account is unverified, Tennessee coach Butch Jones confirmed via text message that Hill was planning to transfer.

In his Instagram post, Hill thanked Tennessee's coaches and fans and said he "will always remember my time spent at Tennessee, my first true love."

Hill, who is from Alliance, Ohio, had 10 carries for 58 yards and one touchdown as a redshirt freshman last fall.

Yamanaka defends WBC bantamweight title

OSAKA, Japan — Shinsuke Yamanaka of Japan successfully defended his WBC ban-

tamweight crown for the sixth time with a technical knockout of Stéphane Jamoye of Belgium on Wednesday.

Yamanaka sent Jamoye to the canvas with a powerful blow to the abdomen and the referee stopped the bout 11 seconds into the ninth round at Osaka-Jo Hall.

With his fifth straight win by knockout, Yamanaka improved to 21-0 with two draws and 16 wins by knockout. Jamoye's record fell to 25 wins against 30 defeats.

Also, IBF super bantamweight champion Kiko Martinez of Spain retained his title with a technical knockout of challenger Hozumi Hasegawa of Japan.

Martinez knocked down Hasegawa with a flurry of punches before the referee stopped the bout in the seventh round.

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NBA PLAYOFFS

Wizards blow lead, win in OT for 2-0 edge

By ANDREW SELIGMAN
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — This one looked like it was slipping away from the Washington Wizards. Then, in a flash everything changed.

Bradley Beal came on strong late in regulation to finish with 26 points, Nene scored six of his 17 points in overtime and the Wizards beat the Chicago Bulls 101-99 Tuesday to take a 2-0 lead in their first-round series. Game 3 is Friday at Washington.

"We've got to come out like we're down 0-1 or 0-2," said Beal, who scored 11 in the fourth quarter. "We've got to have that sense of urgency and just that drive and that motivation like we did early. We've got to be able to maintain that lead. We've got to continue to stay poised."

The Wizards couldn't maintain a 17-point first-quarter lead and had to rally from 10 down in the fourth.

Nene scored the first six points in overtime after being held in check by Defensive Player of the Year Joakim Noah in regulation, and the Wizards hung on after Kirk Hinrich failed to convert at the foul line in



CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/AP

The Wizards' John Wall drives against the Bulls' Kirk Hinrich on Tuesday in Chicago. Washington won to take a 2-0 series lead.

the closing seconds of overtime.

Noah had just hit two free throws when Beal missed a jumper with 18 seconds left. Jimmy Butler got the rebound and Chicago called time.

Hinrich, a 76 percent free-throw shooter this season, had a chance to tie it after get-

ting fouled by Nene on a drive with 2.4 seconds left. But his first attempt hit the rim. He deliberately missed the second, and Trevor Ariza grabbed the rebound to seal the win for Washington.

"I went up there thinking I was going to knock them down," Hinrich said. "Tonight, I just couldn't do it. However, I really felt that I should've made the layup."

D.J. Augustin led Chicago with 25 points but cooled off late in the game with Ariza guarding him. Taj Gibson had 22 points and 10 rebounds. Noah added 20 points and 12 boards, but the Bulls find themselves in a huge hole after dropping two at home.

They blew a 13-point lead in Game 1 and couldn't hang on after rallying in this one. Both times, they struggled in the fourth quarter, and coach Tom Thibodeau bristled when asked if he might switch up his late-game rotation.

"We look at everything," he said.

Unsub: John Wall had 16 points and seven assists for Washington.

The Bulls appeared to be in good shape when they were leading 87-77 five minutes

into the fourth. They were still leading, 91-85, when Beal shot the Wizards back into the game.

He nailed a three-pointer that made it 91-88 and added a floater to make it a one-point game. Then, with a chance to put Washington ahead, he hit one of two free throws to tie it at 91 with 52.9 seconds left.

Both teams had opportunities to win it in the closing seconds but couldn't convert.

"I think we did a great job staying calm and composed," Wall said. "Early in the season, we would get rattled and guys would try to make plays one on one on their own. Tonight, we trusted in our offense like we've been doing."

The Bulls were leading 87-77 after a driving layup by Noah and two free throws by Butler with 6:59 left regulation. But with Beal going off, the Wizards made a run.

"I can't take a lot of credit for the fourth quarter," said Beal, who scored 11 in the fourth after quiet second and third quarters. "I think we got a lot of offensive rebounds and kickouts, and John hit me on a couple. I was fortunate to be able to knock down some, and I just stayed with it."

Scoreboard

| First round (Best-of-seven) (x-if necessary) | Tuesday |
|--|--|
| Eastern Conference | Wizards 101, Bulls 99 (OT) |
| Atlanta 1, Indiana 93 | Washington — Ariza 3-8 0-8, Nene 8-13 1-7, Gortat 2-9 3-6 7, Wall 6-15 3-5 16, Beal 5-20 4-5 26, Booker 3-4 3-4 9, Wester 4-6 0-10, Miller 3-5 2-4 8, Gooden 0-0 0-0 0, Ben 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 38-88 16-28 101 |
| Tuesday: Indiana 101, Atlanta 85 | CHICAGO — Dunleavy 4-6 0-9 30, Boozer 2-6 1-2 5, Noah 8-14 4-4 20, Hinrich 5-13 1-2 12, Butler 2-9 2-2 6, Gibson 7-8 0-10 22, Snell 0-0 0-0 0, Mohammed 0-1 0-0 0, Augustin 10-22 1-2 25, Totals 38-88 16-28 99 |
| Thursday at Atlanta | Washington 31 25 14 21 10-91 |
| Tuesday at Indiana | Chicago 29 26 16 8 9-99 |
| x-Thursday, May 1 at Atlanta | Three-Point Goals—Washington 9-23 (Beal 4-7, Webster 2-4, Walls 2-6, Wall 1-5, Miller 0-1), Chicago 5-17 (Augustin 4-8, Dunleavy 1-3, Hinrich 0-3, Butler 0-3). |
| x-Thursday, May 1 at Indiana | Fouled Out—Nene, Rebounds—Washington 53 (Ariza, Booker 8), Chicago 57 (Noah 12), Assists—Washington 23 (Wall, Ariza 7), Chicago 23 (Augustin 7). |
| Miami 1, Charlotte 8 | Total Fouls—Washington 26, Chicago 23. Technicals—Ariza, Beal, Hinrich, Noah, A—21,663 (20,917). |
| Miami 99, Charlotte 88 | |
| Thursday at Miami | |
| Saturday at Charlotte | |
| x-Wednesday, April 30 at Miami | |
| x-Friday, May 2 at Charlotte | |
| x-Sunday, May 4 at Miami | |
| Tuesday: Toronto 100, Brooklyn 95 | |
| Friday: at Brooklyn | |
| Sunday: at Brooklyn | |
| Tuesday: April 30 at Toronto | |
| x-Friday, May 2 at Brooklyn | |
| x-Friday, May 4 at Toronto | |
| Washington 2, Chicago 0 | |
| Washington 102, Chicago 93 | |
| Tuesday: Washington 101, Chicago 99, OT | |
| Friday: at Washington | |
| Sunday: at Washington | |
| x-Tuesday, April 29 at Chicago | |
| x-Wednesday, May 1 at Washington | |
| x-Saturday, May 3 at Chicago | |
| Western Conference | |
| San Antonio 101, Dallas 0 | |
| San Antonio 100, Dallas 85 | |
| Wednesday at San Antonio | |
| Saturday at Dallas | |
| Monday: at Dallas | |
| x-Wednesday, April 30 at San Antonio | |
| x-Friday, May 2 at Dallas | |
| x-Sunday, May 4 at San Antonio | |
| Thursday at Memphis | |
| Oklahoma City 106, Memphis 86 | |
| Memphis 111, Oklahoma City 105, OT | |
| Thursday at Memphis | |
| Saturday at Memphis | |
| Memphis 104, Oklahoma City 98 | |
| x-Thursday, May 1 at Memphis | |
| x-Saturday, May 3 at Oklahoma City | |
| Tuesday: St. Louis 1, Clippers 105 | |
| Golden State 109, L.A. Clippers 105 | |
| Golden State 138, Oklahoma City 98 | |
| Thursday: at Golden State | |
| Sunday: at Golden State | |
| Thursday: April 26 at L.A. Clippers | |
| x-Thursday, May 1 at Golden State | |
| x-Saturday, May 3 at L.A. Clippers | |
| Portland 122, Houston 120 (OT) | |
| Portland 121 at Houston | |
| Friday: at Portland | |
| Sunday: at Portland | |
| x-Wednesday, April 30 at Houston | |
| x-Friday, May 2 at Portland | |
| x-Sunday, May 4 at Houston | |

Calendar

May 20 — Draft lottery.
May 5 — NBA Finals begin.
June 1 — Draft early entry withdrawal deadline.
June 26 — NBA Draft.

Pacers get defensive, tie series

By MICHAEL MAROT
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Pacers got tired of talking trash. That left them with plenty of energy to handle the Hawks on Tuesday night.

Paul George scored 27 points, George Hill added 15 in the second half and that suffocating defense that seemed to vanish over the past few weeks was back in force. Atlanta couldn't contend with the Pacers' resurgent combination, falling 101-85 and into a 1-1 tie in the best-of-seven playoff series.

"We put our print on this game in the third quarter, which we've done when playing November, December and January basketball," George said. "We got back to that (Tuesday). I thought we did a great job of locking in after coming out in the second half. We just stayed the course."

For weeks, all the talk has been about the "implosion."

After starting 33-7, Indiana finished 56-26 yet somehow managed to hold onto the No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference. On Saturday, they gave home-court advantage right back to the Hawks, prompting TNT commentator Charles Barkley to call the Pacers "wussies," reigniting the debate over whether they were worthy of a No. 1 seed.

For the next 72 hours, George and his teammates were constantly questioned again about what was wrong. For the next 72 hours, they defiantly insisted everything would be OK.

On Tuesday, it was.

Now Indiana must prove it can maintain this level of play, starting with Game 3 in Atlanta on Thursday. The Pacers have only two wins in Atlanta since December 2006, though one of those closed out last year's first-round playoff series in six games.

"We couldn't go down 0-2. We're still down in the series, but we feel good about where we are," David West said. "The most encouraging thing is the way we played defensively. We didn't allow (Jeff) Teague to play playground basketball on us. We took that personally, a little bit."

Perhaps, a lot.

Indiana limited the Hawks to 33 second-half points and dominated the third quarter.

George added 10 rebounds, six assists, four steals and one block while going 9-for-16 from the field, 5-for-7 on three-pointers, and 4-for-4 at the free-throw line. Plus, he contained Teague after the Hawks' point guard burned Indiana for 28 points in Game 1. George wanted the challenge of guarding Teague, who had seven points in the first quarter and seven more the rest of the game.

"I sat down and it was homework for me, just



DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

The Pacers' Roy Hibbert, right, celebrates with Paul George after Hibbert hit a three-pointer at the end of the third quarter against the Hawks on Tuesday. Indiana won 101-85 to even the series.

locking into his tendencies and figuring out where I will get beat or where I'm vulnerable against him," George said. "It's a challenge."

George was the catalyst, but he had plenty of help.

Hill, who had been mired in an offensive funk, made five of six shots in the second half. Luis Scoll, who kept the Pacers close when West got into early foul trouble, finished with 20 points and seven rebounds. The defense that gave up 11 three-pointers in Game 1 and eight more in the first half of Game 2, allowed just two over the final 24 minutes.

"Our execution on both ends of the court wasn't at the level we need it to be," Hawks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "Give them credit, they were aggressive, they made a lot of plays and our execution, particularly in the third quarter, has to be better. That's what we'll work on."

NBA PLAYOFFS/MLB

DeRozan scores 30 to key Raptors' win

By IAN HARRISON
The Associated Press

TORONTO — DeMar DeRozan put his playoff jitters aside and turned in an All-Star performance for the Toronto Raptors.

DeRozan scored 30 points, Jonas Valanciunas had 15 points and 14 rebounds and the Raptors beat the Brooklyn Nets 100-95 on Tuesday night, evening their first-round playoff series at one game apiece.

A first-time All-Star this season, DeRozan struggled in his postseason debut on Saturday. He went 3-for-13 from the field and scored 14 points in Toronto's 94-87 loss.

On Tuesday, DeRozan eclipsed that total in the fourth quarter alone, scoring 17 of Toronto's 36 points.

"We knew he was going to bounce back from the first game," Brooklyn's Deron Williams said. "He took over the game, hit some crucial shots, some tough shots. We've got to do a better job of stopping him, especially late."

DeRozan made nine of 21 shots and went 12-for-14 at the free-throw line, hitting nine of 11 attempts in the final quarter.

"He bounced back, refused," Raptors coach Dwane Casey said. "Making those free throws down the stretch was huge. For him to come through after a tough first game and everyone doubting him, I was really happy with that."

So was Raptors guard Kyle Lowry.

"Tonight he showed what he can do," Lowry said of DeRozan. "He did an unbelievable job of attacking, being aggressive."

Amir Johnson scored 16 points and Lowry had 14 for the Raptors, who outrebounded the Nets 52-30. It was Valanciunas' second straight playoff double-double.

"There was no way we were going to lose that game," Amir Johnson said. "It was a must-win for us."

Joe Johnson scored 18 points, Williams had 15 and Mirza Teletovic 14 for the Nets, who will host Game 3 on Friday night.

"There's a lot of positive things that we've done in these first two games," Nets coach Jason Kidd said. "Now we've got to go home and protect home."

Hampered by foul trouble throughout the game, Brooklyn's Paul Pierce went 2-for-11 from the field, including 0-for-6 from three-point range. He finished with seven points.

Pierce was upset that the Nets failed to take a 2-0 stranglehold on the series.

"We had them on the ropes," Pierce said. "Definitely."

Kevin Garnett scored 13 points and Shaun Livingston had 12 for the Nets, who led 66-64 heading into the fourth and couldn't take advantage of 21 Toronto turnovers.

"They did a better job of executing and we just couldn't stop them," Williams said. Pierce converted a three-point play on his first field goal of the game to tie it at 83 with 3:48 left, but back-to-back jumpers by DeRozan gave the Raptors an 89-85 lead with 2:11 left.

Garnett cut the deficit in half with a pair of free throws, but Lowry scored a driving layup, and then forced a steal that led to a Patterson foul shot that gave Toronto a five-point edge. Pierce answered with another three-point play, and the Nets trailed 92-90 with 59 seconds remaining.

A turnover by DeRozan gave possession back to Brooklyn, but Pierce missed a three-pointer and the Raptors grabbed the rebound. DeRozan was fouled and made both with 20 seconds left, giving the Raptors a 94-90 lead.

Joe Johnson made a layup but Amir Johnson replied with a thunderous dunk, delighting the crowd of 20,382. Pierce missed again, DeRozan grabbed the rebound and sealed it with four free throws in the final 12 seconds.



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVALS/AP

Albert Pujols holds up the balls that he hit for his 499th and 500th career homers during a press conference after the Angels' 7-2 win over Washington on Tuesday.

500: Pujols third youngest to hit milestone

FROM BACK PAGE

against Pujols. "I just wish he'd do it against somebody else."

About three months past his 34th birthday, Pujols is the third-youngest to get to 500; Alex Rodriguez and Jimmie Foxx were 32.

Pujols has eight homers in the past 13 games and leads the Angels with 19 RBIs.

"That's the Albert I'm used to seeing," Angels outfielder Mike Trout said.

The 500th homer went to left-center field on an 89 mph pitch with the count at 1-2. The ball was grabbed — and later given to Pujols — by Thomas Sherrill, a 29-year-old Air Force staff sergeant from Pomona, Calif., who was in Washington for computer training.

"I've been an Angels fan for 20 years and I had no intentions other than to give the ball to Albert," Sherrill said. "They gave me this cool hat and made it sound like more stuff might come later, but I'll be happy with anything they give me."

Pujols clapped his white batting gloves together a few strides before reaching home, then pointed both index fingers to the sky. Fans gave Pujols a partial standing ovation and he tipped his red batting helmet as he approached the dugout. After heading down

Did you know

Of the 26 players in the 500-homer club, 11 reached the mark in the past 15 years. Gary Sheffield was the last to do so, hitting No. 500 on April 17, 2009 for the New York Mets against the Milwaukee Brewers.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

the steps, he came back out for a curtain call.

"That's something you tell your kids when you get older. I don't know the next guy who's going to hit 500," said Angels pitcher Tyler Skaggs (2-0). "Nobody knows how to react. You don't see it too much."

Teammates said Pujols told shortstop Erick Aybar before the game he was going to hit two homers.

"Albert the Albert. If he tells you

something, he's going to do it," Trout said. "I'm not surprised he said that, because I've seen it before."

After a couple of down-for-him years with the Angels following 11 transcendent seasons with the St. Louis Cardinals, Pujols appears ready to reclaim his spot among the game's elite hitters. He homered Friday and Saturday at Detroit to lift his total to 498, and now he's reached the round number of 500 — a total that remains hallowed despite losing luster lately because so many players surpassed it.

Of the 26 members of the 500-homer club, 11 reached the mark in the past 15 years, according to STATS. Gary Sheffield was the previous player to do it, hitting No. 500 in April 2009.

"You don't see 500, obviously, every night," Pujols said. "It's been a great career."

A nine-time All-Star, Pujols hit 455 homers with the Cardinals.

"I'm so excited for him. He's a great friend of mine and a great teammate of mine over the years," Cardinals pitcher Adam Wainwright said. "Nobody deserves it more than he does, because he works so hard."

After his decade-plus in St. Louis, Pujols signed a 10-year deal worth \$240 million with the Angels after the 2011 season.

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MLB

NL roundup

Fernandez fans 14 in win over Braves

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Jose Fernandez gave credit to his catcher and even claimed he had “a lucky game.” The Braves weren’t buying it.

Fernandez matched his career high with 14 strikeouts in eight innings and combined with Steve Cishek on a three-hitter as the Miami Marlins shut out Atlanta 1-0 on Tuesday night.

“He pitched amazing,” said Atlanta’s Chris Johnson. “We went up against a buzz-saw today.”

Braves manager Fredi Gonzalez said his hitters “were coming back shaking their heads.”

Fernandez (3-1) outpitched Atlanta’s Alex Wood (2-3), who also was dominant. Wood allowed four hits and one run with no walks and a career-high 11 strikeouts in eight innings.

But the night belonged to Fernandez.

“I think it would be fair to say that was probably his best-pitched game as far as his stuff and his command,” said Marlins manager Mike Redmond.

Fernandez struck out the side in the fourth and fifth innings. He allowed three hits with no walks but said he didn’t have that kind of control in the bullpen before the game.

“My breaking ball in the bullpen was horrible, horrible,” Fernandez said. “But I thought to myself that when they say ‘play ball’ it gets better.”

Fernandez said catcher Jarrod Saltalamacchia deserved credit for the way he helped keep Atlanta’s batters off-balance.

“He was just amazing back there,” Fernandez said. “I can’t explain how good he was.”

The Marlins gave Fernandez the only run he needed in the fourth. Giancarlo Stanton hit a one-out double to left field and scored on Casey McGehee’s single up the middle.

Cardinals 3, Mets 0: Adam Wainwright threw seven neat innings before leaving with a knee injury, and Jon Jay hit a two-run single that sent St. Louis to a victory over host New York.

Left fielder Matt Holliday robbed Chris Young of a tying homer, one night after the Mets

played some dazzling defense of their own to post a shutout in the series opener.

Phillies 3, Dodgers 2 (10): Dominic Brown doubled home the go-ahead run in the 10th inning after a costly error by left fielder Carl Crawford, and Philadelphia beat host Los Angeles.

Carlos Ruiz reached second base when his flyball to short left field glanced off Crawford’s glove as shortstop Hanley Ramirez nearly collided with the left fielder. Brown followed with a drive to the fence in left-center on a 1-1 pitch from J.P. Howell (1-2).

Reds 4, Pirates 1: Johnny Cueto tossed his second three-hitter against the same team in a week and visiting Cincinnati eased past struggling Pittsburgh. Cueto (2-2) struck out four and walked three while running his career-long scoreless streak to 21 innings before giving up a home run to Andrew McCutchen with one out in the ninth. He improved to 15-4 in his career against the Pirates and became the first Cincinnati pitcher to toss consecutive complete games since Mat Latos did it in June 2012.

Cubs 9, Diamondbacks 2: Jason Hammel pitched seven strong innings, Mike Olt hit a three-run homer and Nate Schierholz drove in a pair of early runs to lead host Chicago to a victory. Hammel (3-1) allowed just one run and four hits in seven innings to lower his ERA to 2.60.

Padres 2, Brewers 1 (12): Chase Headley homered in the top of the 12th inning and San Diego relievers tossed six shut-out innings in a win over visiting Milwaukee.

Huston Street retired the side in order in the bottom of the 12th for his seventh save after Don Roach (1-0) allowed just one hit over two scoreless innings.

Rockies 2, Giants 1: Nolan Arenado hit a go-ahead homer leading off the fifth and Franklin Morales outdueled Madison Bumgarner, lifting host Colorado to a win over San Francisco.

Troy Tulowitzki also added a solo shot for the Rockies, who have hit seven homers in two nights against the Giants.



ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

Boston's David Ortiz, right, greets former teammate, the New York Yankees' Jacoby Ellsbury, prior to their game in Boston on Tuesday. It was Ellsbury's first game at Fenway since signing with the Yankees.

AL roundup

Ellsbury shines in Boston

Ex-Red Sox star has triple, double in return to Fenway

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Jacoby Ellsbury wasted little time reminding the Red Sox how he used to help them win.

He did it for the Yankees and Masahiro Tanaka on Tuesday night.

The boos had barely subsided when Ellsbury tripled leading off the game, his first as an opponent at Fenway Park. Then in the bottom of the first he stole a hit from Boston leadoff hitter Grady Sizemore with a sliding catch in left-center field as his cap flew off.

New York won 9-3 and Ellsbury, who spent seven seasons with the Red Sox before signing a \$153 million, seven-year contract with the Yankees, was a major contributor.

“You want to go out there and put on a good performance,” said Ellsbury, who received a mixed reception. “It was nice to get a triple right off the bat, just allow us to score right from the get-go.”

The two-run double in the fifth also was pretty satisfying. It gave the Yankees a 7-2 lead one inning after David Ortiz and Mike Napoli hit back-to-back homers for the Red Sox.

That was a “big hit,” New York manager Joe Girardi said. “They had climbed a little bit closer to get it to 4-2. I thought he played extremely well.”

Tanaka (3-0) allowed two runs on seven hits in 7½ innings with seven strikeouts and no walks. His 35 strikeouts in his first four major league starts set a team record and he’s walked just two bat-

ters in 29½ innings. But this was his first game at Fenway.

“I understand it’s a stadium rich in tradition,” Tanaka said through a translator. “Going up on the mound, I did feel that.”

After the bottom of the first, a video tribute of Ellsbury’s highlights was shown on the center field screen. He smiled and waved from the visiting dugout.

“For them to just take a moment to have some cheers, it was nice,” said Ellsbury, a big part of Boston’s World Series title last year.

Tigers 8, White Sox 6: Miguel Cabrera hit a two-run homer, Justin Verlander pitched seven solid innings and visiting Detroit held on for a victory.

Cabrera was 4-for-23 on this homestand before going 3-for-5 against the White Sox—including a homer and a double off Charlie Leiseman (0-1), who was called up from the minors to start in place of the injured Chris Sale.

Rays 7, Twins 3: David Price allowed six hits in his first complete game of the season, David DeJesus drove in three runs, and host Tampa beat Minnesota.

Price (3-1) struck out 12 in his ninth career complete game. DeJesus stopped an 0-4-or-24 slide with an RBI single during a three-run first and added a third-inning two-run single.

Rangers 5, Athletics 4: Michael Choice singled in the go-ahead run in the ninth inning and Texas rallied to defeat host Oakland.

Josh Wilson doubled to drive in the tying run just ahead of

Choice, who began his career with the A’s.

Alexi Ogando (1-1) recorded one out in the eighth to pick up the win. Joakim Soria pitched the ninth for his fifth save.

Astros 5, Mariners 2: Collin McHugh struck out a career-high 12 in his season debut, and Jason Castro, Chris Carter and Matt Dominguez homered to propel visiting Houston past Seattle.

McHugh (1-0) was called up from Triple-A Oklahoma City for the start and struck out the first three batters to set the tone for his first win in 10 career starts. The right-hander didn’t walk a batter, giving up three hits in 6½ shutout innings.

Royals 8, Indians 2: James Shields allowed two runs in six innings and Mike Moustakas hit a three-run homer to lead Kansas City over host Cleveland.

Shields (2-2) struck out nine and won his second straight start. Moustakas’ homer sparked a four-run fourth that featured five hits. The Royals are 10-0 when scoring at least four runs.

Blue Jays 9, Orioles 3: Brett Lawrie and Melky Cabrera each hit three-run homers in the eighth inning to power host Toronto past Baltimore.

Edwin Encarnacion connected for his first homer of the season for Toronto, another three-run drive. Lawrie’s long ball off Evan Meek (0-1) snapped a 3-all tie in front of a sparse crowd of 14,866 at Rogers Centre. Cabrera connected for his fifth of the season off Josh Stinson, putting the Blue Jays in front, 9-3.



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

The Marlins' Jose Fernandez struck out 14 in a 1-0 win over Atlanta.

HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS EUROPE

'Sometimes a tie is a win'

Increased focus on defense boosting the number of low-scoring boys soccer games

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

Soccer games between evenly-matched teams are often low-scoring. Last weekend in DODDS Europe, however, low-scoring turned into no-scoring.

Two DODDS Europe boys soccer games ended in 0-0 ties on Friday, April 18. Division I opponents Ramstein and Patch played to a scoreless draw, as did Division II opponents Hohenfels and Bitburg.

One team going scoreless in a DODDS Europe game isn't uncommon. Regional scheduling often pits schools of disparate student populations and talent level against each other, resulting in lopsided shutout scores. And games between more evenly-matched teams can often end in a 1-0 or 2-0 decision.

But last weekend's results may point to a growing trend towards low-scoring DODDS Europe boys soccer games. Friday's Ramstein-Patch and Bitburg-Hohenfels outcomes doubled the number of scoreless ties produced by any of the preceding two boys soccer seasons; the 2012 and 2013 DODDS Europe boys regular-season schedules produced just one scoreless game apiece.

Further illustrating the point, three of the teams involved in those scoreless Friday games went on to participate in another shutout on Saturday. Bitburg defeated Ansbach 4-0, Hohenfels blanked Baumholder 3-0 and Patch edged Wiesbaden 1-0, with the Panthers' only goal coming on a late penalty kick.

All told, there were 10 DODDS Europe boys soccer games between April 18 and 19, and one or both teams went scoreless in eight of them.

DODDS Europe boys soccer coaches pointed out a simple explanation for the trend: better defensive players. Two main factors are in play, coaches say. More players are willing to play defense today and coaches often place a greater emphasis on defensive skills and strategy.

As with any team sport, offensive production in soccer leads directly to individual acclaim. A player who scores a goal can crowd forward to cheers from the crowd,



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Patch's Christian Rauschenpalt gets off a shot in his team's 0-0 tie with Ramstein on Friday while Brianno Illari, left, and Damon White, right, watch. The game was one of two DODDS Europe boys contests to end in scoreless draws that day.

high-fives and chest bumps from teammates, a mention in media box scores and articles and the admiration of classmates the following Monday.

Conversations with coaches and defensive players reveal that such acclaim is less forthcoming for goalkeepers and back-line defensemen. As a rule, defensive players are at constant risk of playing the humbled antagonist to an opponent's offensive glory, and a defensive miscue that leads to a goal against can be embarrassing for a fullback or goalie. Where offense presents opportunities, defense offers opportunities to fail.

Wiesbaden coach Ben Arcila, however, has seen that stigma subside.

There was a time, Arcila said, when nearly every player to enter his program expressed an interest to play midfielder or forward. Only the "less agile" players, he said,

would be relegated to defense.

But an increasing appreciation for defense at the sport's highest level has trickled down to the prep ranks, Arcila said, citing the international stardom of defenders Philipp Lahm of Bayern Munich and Sergio Ramos of Real Madrid. As a result, more talented players are interested in, or at least amenable to, assuming a defensive position.

"High school soccer reflects professional trends," Arcila said. "Kids do not mind playing goalie or defense anymore."

Meanwhile, coaches are emphasizing defense more than ever, and encouraging players at every position to examine their roles in preventing opposing goals.

Ramstein coach Dominik Ludes said he stresses defense as a team-wide effort, an approach that further erodes the crumbling stereotypical turf separating the

glamorous, heat-seeking striker from the workmanlike cog on the back line.

"As soon as you lose possession of the ball, everybody on the field becomes a defender, and you try to win the ball back," Ludes said. "It's important for them to understand that not just the center backs or the keeper make up a good defense."

Coaches report that their teams have bought into that concept. Friday's scoreless ties didn't damage the morale of the involved teams' offensive midfielders and strikers, they said.

"They know how hard it is to score a goal most of the time," Hohenfels coach Shawn Rodman said. "I do think they feel the pressure to score, but I also think they are more committed to playing defense themselves because our backs and keeper are working so hard."

Teams wishing to contend for a European title will eventually need to find their offensive stride. But for now, as the teams make their preparations for the post-season, a stingy defense is seen as an indicator of future success.

Patch coach Eugene Macadagum said his team emerged from its zero-all draw with Ramstein with its confidence fully intact.

"It lifted their spirits knowing that they have a team that will be competitive at Europeans," Macadagum said. "They do understand that the low-scoring game is a result of two evenly-matched teams meeting."

Arcila put the issue in starker terms.

"No one wants to lose," the Wiesbaden coach said. "Sometimes a tie is a win."

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Top performances in Europe

Track and field

■ Anthony Little, Wiesbaden — DODDS Europe's reigning fastest sprinter confirmed that title with victories in the 100 and 200 meters on Saturday.

■ Ellie Prewitt, Aviano — The Saints' freshman made a memorable DODDS Europe debut with a win in the 200-meter run Saturday at Vicenza.

Baseball

■ Kurt Hall, Vilseck — The Falcons' junior fueled

his team to a 2-0 upset over rival Patch, striking out nine over seven innings of one-hit ball and knocking in a run at the plate.

■ Austin Benton, Ansbach — The Cougars' ace tossed a no-hitter in a 17-0 win over Baumholder on Saturday, missing a perfect game on one hit-by-pitch.

Boys soccer

■ Justin Standifer, Hohenfels — The Tigers' goalie enjoyed a perfect weekend, making a com-

bined 19 saves in a scoreless tie with Bitburg and a 3-0 win over Baumholder.

■ Brandon Danielson, Patch — Panthers' keeper fended off eight Ramstein shots in Patch's 0-0 tie with Ramstein on Friday.

Girls soccer

■ Tyler Treat, Naples — Wildcats' striker struck for two goals and two assists in an 8-3 win over Aviano on Saturday.

■ Joleena Dailey, Lakenheath — The undefeated

Lancers routed Menwith Hill 9-0 Saturday with Dailey accounting for three of the team's scores.

Softball

■ Breanna Rodriguez, Patch — Panthers' slugger went 3-for-3 with a home run and three RBIs in an 11-1 rout of Vilseck on Saturday.

■ Shannon Cox, Lakenheath — Two-way star went a perfect 8-for-8 in a Saturday doubleheader split with Kaiserslautern and picked up the pitching win in the nightcap.

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HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS PACIFIC

Getting the bounce back in their steps

Daegu's Morales, Kadena's Vaden show a torn ACL is not the end for high school athletes

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

Monica Morales could not have felt any worse. Her Daegu girls' soccer team was losing 3-0 at Taejon Christian International on April 3, 2013, when she tried to kick the ball ahead to a Warriors forward, only to have a Dragons player kick it behind Morales.

The then-junior defender twisted around to chase the ball except for her left leg, which remain planted. She heard the knee pop and down onto the TCIS field turf she went, with a torn anterior cruciate ligament.

She had surgery on May 28, after which she couldn't navigate the seven steps from bed to bathroom without crutches.

"I was used to the wheelchair and just wheeling around, but ... I had to use crutches for the first time and it felt horrible because of the weight of my leg and I just

"I didn't want to believe I was hurt or that I wouldn't finish my season."

Monica Morales
Daegu senior

Meat FC, a club team comprised mainly of Kadena and Kubasaki alumni. He got pulled down in a match with another club team, his body going one way and the left leg another.

"At first, all I heard was a pop, then my knee felt numb for a little," Vaden said. "I knew something was wrong. I couldn't stand up. I tried crawling off the field, but I couldn't, so I just rolled."

While Morales' injury occurred in her junior year and Vaden his senior year, each worried they might remain sidelined.

"I'm thinking it's my senior year and I have a torn ACL and I don't think I can play soccer this year," Vaden said. "But I thought maybe I could fight it and rehab right."

"I felt completely heartbroken," Morales said. "I knew



KRYSTA BRUN/Special to Stars and Stripes

Daegu senior defender Monica Morales, shown kicking against Taejon Christian International, took nearly a year to return from a torn anterior cruciate ligament suffered in a match on April 3, 2013.

something was wrong, but of course, I thought like every athlete that would get hurt and I was in denial. I didn't want to believe I was hurt or that I wouldn't finish my season. I walked around as if nothing was wrong."

Medical Web sites refer to the anterior cruciate ligament as the most critical component of a knee for athletes who play sports that feature lateral movement such as

soccer, basketball and football.

Rehabilitation can take from six months to a year, and involves strenuous resistance exercises such as weightlifting and treadmills. Some sites recommend swimming for rehabilitating athletes; water causes as much resistance as the aforementioned methods.

If anywhere Morales' and Vaden's stories diverge, this is

"I'm thinking it's my senior year and I have a torn ACL and I don't think I can play soccer this year."

Kevin Vaden
Kadena senior

where.

While it took Morales nearly a year to return to the pitch, which she did on March 21, Vaden's rehabilitation took just 4½ months. The same sampling of online medical journals say rehab time can differ from athlete to athlete depending on the extent of the injury and the type of rehab.

"Stressful and draining," Morales described her therapy. "It was a hard process for me. Just for the fact that I've never gone through such a big injury and I had no idea what to expect."

She did wobble-board exercise and hamstring and quadriceps exercises in addition to weights. Vaden, meanwhile, did push-weight exercises, leg presses and leg curls, slow walking on the treadmill and 10 minutes on the exercise bicycle.

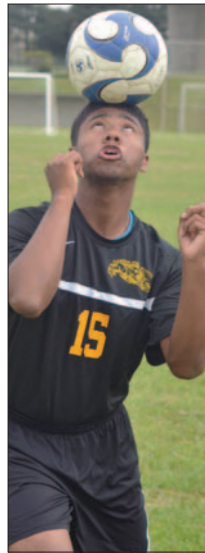
Poetically, Morales' comeback took place on the same field where she suffered the injury. Daegu played TCIS to a 1-1 draw in that match. Vaden's return came in Kadena's 2-1 win over Konan in the second game of a double-header on April 12; he lined up at left fullback.

"I was more nervous about my performance than getting hurt," Morales said, adding that there's no voice in her head telling her to be cautious. "It felt amazing finally putting on my uniform and playing with my team again."

"Indescribably amazing," Vaden said of his return.

Vaden's presence "can only make the team better," Panthers captain Yuji Callahan said. "He's very smart. He knows where to be and he has good positioning. He also has great kicking skills. He can kick the ball precisely and far."

Aside from leadership and maturity, Morales' return can serve as an example to other athletes or students who, when seeing what she went through, make their



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Kadena senior left fullback Kevin Vaden took just 4½ months to return from surgery for a torn anterior cruciate ligament.

problems seem much smaller.

"She played football and she fought through a pretty serious injury to get back on the field," Daegu athletics director Ken Walter said. "She's an inspiration to a lot of the girls. Here's a girl who came through a lot more than I have."

Asked what advice he would offer one rehabbing from a torn ACL, Vaden said it's equal parts physical and mental.

"Keep your leg moving, keep your knee exercised, but don't overdo it," he said. "And don't give up. At some points, I thought I might as well give up rehabbing because I might not play, but keep pushing yourself to actually rehab, keep going and you know you'll make it."

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Top performances in the Pacific

Track and field

■ Sophomore distance specialist Daniel Galvin of Yokota broke the six-year-old Pacific record in the 800-meter run, clocking 1 minute, 56.89 seconds. He topped the mark of 1:57.3 set in 2008 by Blake Bannister of Christian Academy Japan.

Baseball

■ Kinnick senior right-hander Daniel Ross pitched

a two-hit shutout over five innings, walking none and striking out eight in a 1-0 win over Zama American, which clinched the DODDS Japan Tournament title with the Red Devils.

Boys soccer

■ Thomas McGrath netted five goals in two matches in E.J. King's annual road swing to Daegu. McGrath had four goals in the Cobras' 5-0 win over the Warriors and a 1-1 draw with Osan.

■ David Neaverth recorded an assist on the tying goal and scored the match winner on a penalty kick during stoppage time to power Seoul American to a 3-2 win over Seoul Foreign.

■ Jay Cone-Murakami scored three times to help Matthew C. Perry outlast Zama in a weekend DODDS Japan series.

■ Zach Esteron ran his season total to six goals, scoring once each in a 1-0 win over Kinnick and a 4-2 win over Edgren, helping Yokota win for the third time in

four matches after an 0-8 start.

Girls soccer

■ Ericka Lunn headed in a free kick in the 73rd minute, giving Kadena a 1-0 home win over Kubasaki, leveling the Okinawa series at a win apiece.

■ Brianna Honma scored twice to raise her season total to three and helping Yokota to a 2-0-1 mark in a DODDS Japan weekend series at Edgren. The Panthers beat the Eagles 1-0 and 2-0 and tied Kinnick 3-3.

SPORTS



Indiana rebounds

Pacers use stifling defense to tie series with Hawks | **NBA playoffs, Pages 26-27**

MLB

Los Angeles Angels first baseman Albert Pujols watches the ball after connecting off the Washington Nationals' Taylor Jordan in the fifth inning on Tuesday night in Washington for his 500th career home run.

PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVALS/AP

Pujols joins the 500 club

500 home run club

Los Angeles Angels first baseman Albert Pujols on Tuesday joined a list of 26 players who have hit at least 500 home runs in the major leagues (x-denotes active player).

| | Home runs |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Barry Bonds..... | 762 |
| 2. Hank Aaron..... | 755 |
| 3. Babe Ruth..... | 714 |
| 4. Willie Mays..... | 660 |
| 5. x-Alex Rodriguez..... | 654 |
| 6. Ken Griffey Jr..... | 630 |
| 7. Jim Thome..... | 612 |
| 8. Sammy Sosa..... | 609 |
| 9. Frank Robinson..... | 586 |
| 10. Mark McGwire..... | 583 |
| 11. Harmon Killebrew..... | 573 |
| 12. Rafael Palmeiro..... | 569 |
| 13. Reggie Jackson..... | 563 |
| 14. Manny Ramirez..... | 555 |
| 15. Mike Schmidt..... | 548 |
| 16. Mickey Mantle..... | 536 |
| 17. Jimmie Foxx..... | 534 |
| 18. Willie McCovey..... | 521 |
| 19. Frank Thomas..... | 521 |
| 20. Ted Williams..... | 521 |
| 21. Ernie Banks..... | 512 |
| 22. Eddie Mathews..... | 512 |
| 23. Mel Ott..... | 511 |
| 24. Gary Sheffield..... | 509 |
| 25. Eddie Murray..... | 504 |
| 26. x-Albert Pujols..... | 500 |

SOURCE: The Associated Press

Angels slugger first to blast HRs 499, 500 in same game

By HOWARD FENDRICH
The Associated Press

ALBERT PUJOLS smiled as he explained why he felt the need to apologize to his wife for hitting homer No. 500 so quickly after No. 499.

She had planned to be there in person once he got within one of the milestone.

He didn't give her the chance.

Pujols became the first major leaguer to get his 499th and 500th homers in the same game, connecting twice Tuesday night and driving in five runs in the Los Angeles Angels' 7-2 victory over the Washington Nationals. He's the 26th player in big league history to reach 500.

"I went and made a phone call and I called her and she was doing her

nails. And everybody in the salon, I guess, was telling her, 'Congratulations!' And she was like, 'Did you just hit your 500th?' I was like, 'I'm sorry,'" Pujols said with a laugh.

"She would have loved to be here with my kids and my family. She drives me every day to try to be a better person, a better player," he added. "I would have loved to share this moment with her here."

Hitting like the Pujols of old, the three-time NL MVP delivered a three-run homer in the first inning and two-run drive in the fifth, both off Taylor Jordan (0-3).

"I knew this year, it was going to happen, whether it was tonight, tomorrow, two months from now," Pujols said. He also hit his 400th homer at Nationals Park. "I admire his ability and the way he goes about playing the game, and I have for some time," said Washington manager Matt Williams, who played

SEE 500 ON PAGE 27

Albert Pujols acknowledges the crowd after hitting his 500th career home run.

PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVALS/AP

Inside:

- Fernandez Ks 14 for Marlins, Page 29
- Ellsbury shines in Fenway return, Page 29

Boys soccer teams key on defense; Players have long road back after ACL tears | **High schools, Pages 30-31**

Canadiens sweep Lightning, reach 2nd round | **NHL, Page 24**

